

Halesowen CHRONICLE



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NATIONAL BOSS BIG SAM'S AS TOUGH AS OLD BLACK COUNTRY ROOTS



New England national team boss Sam Allardyce

NEW England boss Sam Allardyce has described how his Black Country roots have helped prepare him for the toughest job in football.

The Dudley-born 61-year-old was officially unveiled on Monday after agreeing a two-year deal, which includes the option of an additional two years.

Allardyce was born in a council house in Ash Green – part of the Old Park Farm estate. The son of a policeman, he was educated at Sycamore Green Primary School and later at Wren's Nest School. And he believes his upbringing has played a major role in shaping his managerial career.

"Ash Green – that is where it all started for me," Allardyce said. "My old mate is still

living in his dad's house on that estate. He is one of my schoolboy friends.

"But Ash Green was a great place to develop as a footballer. It was a council estate with a 'green' in the middle.

"It was brown, bare and muddy. But I have some great memories from there. I learned an awful lot both for my playing career and managerial career."

And Allardyce believes he is tough enough to deal with the challenges of the England manager's job, declaring: "Bring it on."

He added: "I'm hardened over many, many years. You toughen yourself for whatever job you take. You take the good with the bad, otherwise you don't do it – don't bother. I am here because I want to be here,

because I want the challenge, I'm here because I think I can make the team better and I think I'm tough enough to take it."

Big Sam's appointment has been called 'fantastic' by friends and former neighbours who believe he will help 'bring football back to how it should be.'

"He will bring football back to the Black Country," said Wolves fan Brian Large, 69, from Coseley. "And he will bring football back to how it should be."

Fred Birch, 71, from Dudley, said: "I think the appointment is fantastic.

"England could be no worse than they have been recently."

● Pride – Page 14
● England – Page 39

HERITAGE

Grade II listing for historic memorial

AN historic First World War memorial will stand proud in Halesowen town centre for years to come after being granted Grade II listed status.

The memorial, designed by Sir Harold Brakspear and built in 1921 by Collins and Godfrey of Tewkesbury, has been deemed of national importance by Historic England and the Royal British Legion. It will allow the soldiers' names to live on.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said: "This is another fantastic step in recognising the importance of our local heritage and adding further protection for future generations."

Halesowen South Councillor David Vickers said: "I think it is wonderful that we remember our fallen who died."

FEARS

Doubts on talking newspaper future

A CELEBRATED talking newspaper is facing an uncertain future due to Dudley Council cuts.

Based at Beacon Centre in Stourbridge, the Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine recently marked 40 years. But bosses are not even sure if it can stay in its current building.

It provides a weekly round-up of the latest local news, sport and information to thousands of people with sight loss.

Arwyn Jones, chief executive of the Beacon Centre, said: "There is massive uncertainty surrounding our future."

CUTBACKS

Centre in SOS plea after funding blow

AN activity centre for the elderly in Dudley could be forced to close by early next year after the council axed £300,000 of its funding.

The Age UK Springboard activity centre based at the Waterfront, Brierley Hill, has had £300,000 of its funding cut by Dudley Council in recent weeks. Bosses say they could close by January unless support is forthcoming. Acting co-ordinator Alison Pugh said: "We are in dire straits. We are still providing our services but the future is uncertain for us past December as these are unprecedented times."

To donate, call 01384 571830.

BLUE BOYS

Young Colts duo are on the ball



SEE BACK

CLUB AT RISK FOR STORE CAR PARK

A SUPERMARKET giant has resurrected plans to knock down a social club in Halesowen in order to extend its car park.

A previous application by Lidl to demolish Halesowen Members Club in order to create more parking spaces at its Hagley Road shop was rejected by Dudley Council planners in February.

However, the firm has resubmitted proposals to the authority for the scheme, which would potentially add 57 spaces to its car park.

It was previously turned down by planning bosses who rejected the proposals due to concerns over safety and design.

Ward councillor Simon Phipps said he was dismayed the retailer had come back for a second bite of the cherry – and would be formally objecting to the plan.

He said: "I don't think Lidl need a bigger car park than the one they have at the moment."

"The members club is very well used and popular with residents."

"It would be a great shame if it was to go, just to become a car park – especially at a time when lots of pubs are being closed down for similar reasons."

Access

"It's disappointing that these big national companies want to close down local amenities like our pubs," Councillor Phipps added.

When the plans were knock back earlier this year, Dudley Council officers said they were unhappy that the supermarket was not planning to create a new access point to the extended car park, meaning there would be added pressure on the existing entrance both on the car park and from cars waiting to turn in from Hagley Road.

They were also concerned about the extension leading to traffic problems on the busy Hagley Road.

In a design statement submitted as part of the planning package, Lidl said the planning concerns had been

By David Cosgrove

addressed. The statement says: "The purpose of the development is to meet additional demand for car parking and improve the circulation and flow of the car park."

"The additional car parking provision and closing off of an existing access will not adversely impact upon the operation of the store or lead to highway safety concerns."

"Indeed, the proposals offer benefits in terms of highway safety."

"Furthermore, disabled parking and cycle parking provision will remain in accordance with adopted standards," the document adds.

"Lidl has taken a proactive approach to addressing concerns regarding both visual and residential amenity in order to ensure the new car park extension will not result in material harm in matters of planning importance."

The Hagley Road store opened on the site of the former Peugeot garage in January 2008.

When the rejected the decision earlier this year, Dudley Council planning officers said: "The scheme has the potential to prejudice highway safety and impact upon the free flow of traffic along the Hagley Road and the users of the enlarged car park."

Thanks after rugby tribute success



Widow Gemma pays tribute to Robbie Eves as players line up for the memorial game

THE family of a popular rugby player who passed away from cancer shortly after marrying his teenage sweetheart, say they were overwhelmed by the support at a memorial match.

Robbie Eves from Stourbridge died earlier this month, aged 34, following a battle with bowel and liver cancer.

He had played at Stourbridge Rugby Club since the age of six, and in his honour a benefit match between Robbie's old teammates from Stourbridge RFC and the Old Swinford Hospital School was held at the

Bridgnorth Road ground in Stourton Park. Around 1,000 people turned out with money from donations, match tickets, a raffle and an auction so far raising £15,000 towards a trust fund for Robbie's widow Gemma and their two sons, four-year-old Ruaridh and 22-month-old Euan, as well as to a charity of their choice. After Gemma gave a heartfelt tribute. An applause rang out in Robbie's memory. Ruaridh brought the ball on to the pitch to start the game.

Robbie's brother Alex said: "It was a fitting tribute. I was very proud that it was for my brother."

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2 CONTENTS	
MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	16
REVIEWS	16
FAST TICKET	21
PROPERTY	29
MOTORING	36
SPORT	39-40
CONTACT US	

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Halesowen

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Museum collection will be moved



Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, Priory Street

DUDLEY Museum's move to a new base has moved a step closer, after the plan gained the backing of a council's scrutiny board.

Last month Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council unveiled plans to close Dudley Museum and shift the collection to Dudley Archives, in Tipton Road.

The proposals have been opposed by campaigners but on last week the council's overview and scrutiny management board voted unanimously in favour of them.

The plans, which had already been backed by the authority's cabinet members, will now go before full council for final approval.

Councillor Alan Finch, who sits on the scrutiny committee, said: "I think it's about time we stopped dithering – we've got to go forward and actually make decisions."

"We had friendly discussions between ourselves and agreed for it to go forward. We don't want another Hippodrome on our hands."

Assuming full council backing, the museum's treasures – including geological and fine art collections – will be housed in the archive centre.

Council chiefs are in talks with the owners of the museum's collections for permission to move them early next year. It is hoped the new museum will open in summer 2017.

The old building in St James's Road will close at the end of this year while the council considers the future of the site."

£700k community hub is finally on the way

A LONG-AWAITED community centre is set to be built on Donkey Pool Playing Fields in Dudley after the council gave plans the go-ahead for the £700,000 project.

Castle and Priory ward Councillor Ken Finch said he believes the centre will be built this year.

Residents have been waiting nearly a decade for a new centre after their old one was knocked down eight years ago when Dudley Council also flattened more than 200 homes.

"It is success story for the Priory Residents Tenants Association after what they went through in the past seven to eight years," said Councillor Finch.

"I am delighted, alongside my colleagues, to be part of the development."

"We have all the money that has come through the local authority. It has been rubber-stamped by the council and all we are waiting for now is to get the contractors in."

Cafe

The purpose-built community centre would feature four changing rooms with showers and toilets and the use of a multi-games area with upgraded access for the public. It will also have a hall, kitchen and community cafe.

Councillor Finch said: "We have been promised chairs and table from different organisations. A lot of businesses are beginning to show interest."

"The council have now got the backing from Sports England to improve the football pitches that need draining. Sports England seem to be very impressed and once they are assured the building will start they will get involved."

"We are now looking for sponsors and fundraisers. We have had a number of organisations that said they will support us financially."

He was '99 per cent' sure that the community centre would be built this year but could not be certain when the exact date would be as the plans still need to discussed with contractors.

The centre will be run by the Priory Residents Tenants Association.

Campaign over crossing warden



Campaigner Michelle Worton with retiring crossing warden lady Mary Darby, of Rowley Regis

PARENTS have launched a campaign after they claimed an outgoing lollipop lady will not be replaced outside a Black Country primary school.

They are concerned for their children's safety if the crossing outside Springfield Junior School in Rowley Regis is left unmanned when the new term starts in September.

It comes after the warden who had worked on the crossing on Doulton Road for the last four years retired. Parents say they

have been told she will not be replaced. A petition has been signed with parents hopeful the decision will be reversed.

Michelle Worton, aged 31, of Woolpack Close, walks children Stephen, aged nine, and George, three, to the school. She said: "With all of the children who cross that road and the demand of the traffic, the enormity of the danger on that road is phenomenal."

"I have been on that road when drivers haven't stopped at all. The

petition has got 162 signatures with many comments from parents.

"Hundreds have been sharing it on Facebook. It is a desperate situation, the lollipop lady needs replacing."

Last year, Sandwell Council decided not to replace a retiring crossing warden operating at Rounds Green Primary in Brades Lane, Oldbury. Parents feared children were being put at risk by cars parked on double yellow lines and motorists speeding past the school.

Upgrade at stations to allow for more users

TRANSPORT bosses have named Dudley Port Railway Station among a number they are looking at improving during the next 10 years. Network Rail says passenger numbers should continue to rise.

It is one of four stations in the Black Country on a shortlist for improvements to help them deal with the expected surge in use. The others are Wolverhampton, Smethwick Galton Bridge and Walsall. They are among 19 in the West Midlands down for improvements.

Wolverhampton is on a development time line 'by 2024' under a recently released West Midlands & Chilterns Route Study by Network Rail.

The station is already subject to planned work next year to replace it with an interchange, combining rail and Midland Metro services. The remainder are on a 'longer term' development plan.

The study predicted usage of Wolverhampton Railway Station would increase from 4.75 million people in 2013-14 to up to 7.1 million in 2023.

It said platforms one and two were the busiest parts of the station, adding the entrance and concourse area were 'quite narrow and restricted'. The report also said the planned automatic ticket gates as part of an upcoming station could restrict flows of people.

The report said Galton Bridge passengers found it difficult to find their way around the multi-level platforms.

At Dudley Port the authors found the staircase was too narrow to accommodate peak time flows of passengers.

Lenny's pride at university role

DUDLEY-BORN comedian Sir Lenny Henry has been appointed chancellor of Birmingham City University.

Sir Lenny said he felt proud to be part of something that could 'potentially change the face of Birmingham education of the future'.

The actor, writer, comedian and charity campaigner visited the university's campus to start preparing for his five-year term.

He said: "Being a chancellor means it's ceremonial but also gives me the chance to speak to students and talk about what they want and their future plans."

"This was not on the cards for me so I feel really proud to be part of something that could potentially change the face of Birmingham education."

Foxtrot down to weekly tea dance

DANCERS can practise their fancy footwork at weekly tea dances in Halesowen.

They are held every Thursday from 2-4pm in Cornbow Hall. Admission is £3 which includes tea and coffee. Call 01384 81 2814 for details.

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Got 2 Sing choir hits right notes for hospice

THE Got 2 Sing Choir raised the roof at Dudley Town Hall as well as cash for Mary Stevens Hospice with its Summer Spectacular Performance.

The community choir has been supporting Mary Stevens Hospice over the past 18 months.

The event raised £920.50, which added to the money raised by Got 2 Sing over the past year and a half, means that in total they have collected over £11,000.

Choir members receive singing lessons and develop contemporary vocal techniques, and perform in venues across the county.

There is also a thriving Got 2 Sing Youth Choir in Stourbridge for budding young performers aged nine to 16. Got 2 Sing was set up five years ago by Jane Dunn and her daughter Beth, and now has 10 associated choirs. They regularly hold fundraising concerts, and in total have so far raised in the region of £84,000 for local charities.

Delighted with the success of July's concert, Jane said: "It was fantastic. There were 220 members on stage, so many that they had to use two stage extensions."

It followed a concert raising money for the hospice held at Birmingham Symphony Hall last year.

Hospice head of fundraising and lottery Charlotte Schofield, said: "Mary Stevens Hospice is extremely lucky to work in partnership with Got 2 Sing choirs.

"We are extremely grateful to Got 2 Sing for everything they do."

Road closed after lorry overturns

A LORRY crashed and rolled onto its side on a busy island forcing a road to be shut and sparking traffic chaos.

It happened on the A456 between Stourbridge and Halesowen at around 11.55am on Sunday. It overturned on the Foxhunt island near the Harvester pub.

Halesowen councillor Karen Shakespeare was driving behind the lorry as it overturned and called emergency services. Initially, they had to shut the road at the island between Hagley Road and Manor Way.

Bus operator National Express West Midlands alerted passengers through Twitter that a service going along the route had to be diverted amid the chaos. A man scrambled out of the wreckage

Summer exhibition held at glass cone

AN interactive summer exhibition is being staged at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley until September 25.

The family exhibition is open Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm and at weekends from 11am to 4pm.

Life in jail for brutal hammer killer



Killer Paul Abbott

A GAMBLER on a losing streak has been jailed for life for murdering his wife of 28 years in a frenzied hammer attack.

Paul Abbott was sentenced to a minimum of 15 years after hitting Jackie Abbott at least 16 times on the head and body while chasing her around their house in Lodge Crescent, Netherton.

Blood stains showed how the ferocious attack was launched in the bedroom before continuing from room to room, down the stairs, through the ground floor

and into the garden, prosecutor Mr Robert Price told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Abbott, aged 57, continued to bludgeon the 54-year-old as she crawled on her hands and knees before kicking her with such force that ribs were fractured and her right lung lacerated.

The couple, who ran a business near their home selling fishing, darts and snooker equipment, with sons Martyn, 25 and Ryan, 22, had increasingly argued over his gambling and her drinking during the

final year of the victim's life, it was said. He refused to give his wife her wages on December 3 and two days later she went to visit a long time friend.

Meanwhile he had blown £11,500 in two days at a casino. Mrs Abbott returned on December 11 to go to an Elvis tribute concert, which she wanted to attend with friends and not her husband. He grabbed her handbag looking for his ticket, sparking a struggle.

Abbott grabbed a hammer while she tried to protect herself.



Wife Jackie Abbott

Just no limit to what Bionic Bob can achieve

HE lost his legs and arms after a bout of meningitis when he was aged just 18.

But Robert Parsons, nickname Bionic Bob, has proved there is no limit to what he can do.

The 34-year-old completed a 10km sponsored walk, raising more than £1,500 for charity.

And as part of his training, Mr Parsons, from Stourbridge, made a Rocky-style training video shared by thousands of people online.

This shows him wearing his prosthetic blades to run around, pushing a car and lifting dumb bells.

Mr Parsons completed Bionic Bob's 10k Walk, alongside the former Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley – Councillor Steve Waltho and his wife Jayne.

Mr Parsons, a former van driver's mate at the Geoff Hill Electrical Superstore in Amblesote, said he wanted to thank people for their support after his diagnosis.

Fundraising by his former boss Mr Hill saw more than £150,000 donated to help him buy prostheses and a specially-adapted car.

The 10k walk event started and finished at Geoff Hill Electrical Superstore and went through Mary Stevens Park.

Donations

Mr Parsons said: "The reaction from people has been amazing – everyone supported what I was doing, I just wanted to give something back to all of the people who had helped and supported me.

"You feel like you've had all that help and want to help people in return."

He has raised more than £1,500 so far from the walk for Mary Stevens Hospice and Meningitis Now and said more donations would be welcomed.

Mr Parsons was a delivery driver for Mr Hill's electrical firm when he was struck down by the potentially deadly illness in 2000, causing him to have operations to remove his arms from just below the elbow and his legs at the knees.

He also lost part of his nose. Thousands of pounds were raised in just weeks from public donations – and that has been used in recent years to kit out Mr Parsons's home and buy him a specially-adapted car.

In the 16 years since he has battled to improve his mobility and reached a milestone in January 2011 by managing to walk around for long periods of time.

Staff from Mary Stevens Hospice hailed 'inspirational' Mr Parsons' fundraising efforts.

To donate to Mr Parsons' fund visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RobParsons>



Robert Parsons with Lee Smart from Geoff Hill Electrical and Bob Billingham, right



Bionic Bob during the making of the Rocky video



Pushing a car as part of the filming

NEWS IN BRIEF

Extra parking for visitors to town

VISITORS and traders to Dudley town centre will benefit from additional car parking spaces that have been created in the town.

Around 12 new spaces, including one disabled bay, will be created on an unused and redundant car park in New Mill Street.

The move is part of plans to attract more shoppers and boost trade.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is further great news for the town, its visitors and traders."

Fewer in borough are out of work

THE number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits fell in the Dudley borough last month.

There were 40 fewer claimants in June than in May, with the total falling to 5,445 – 2.8 per cent of the working population.

Sandwell was down 45 to 7,020 (3.5 per cent) but Wyre Forest had a rise of 10 to 700 (1.2 per cent).

New Work and Pensions Secretary Damian Green said: "When it comes to our jobs market we're in a position of strength."

Special school is given recognition

A SPECIAL school in Halesowen has become the first in the Dudley borough to be nationally recognised for its work with parents and carers.

Halesbury School was awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA), which promotes excellence in parent partnerships within schools.

The school, in partnership with Pens Meadow School, has recruited its own family outreach team. It provides benefits advice, access to funding and adult and family learning.

Shows added to new season at civic hall

SOME new concerts and shows have been added to the programme at Brierley Hill Civic Hall this autumn and winter.

Tickets for the Buddy Holly and the Crickets concert, at 7pm on October 19 are £15.

On November 24 there will be an evening of 90s music with Mad 4 Brit – tickets £10 – and on December 1 the venue offers The Rat Pack at Christmas with tickets at £20.

Call 01384 573381 to buy.

Ukulele band concert

THE Black Country Ukulele Band perform at Himley Park on August 7.

Their set, from 2.30 to 5pm, will feature an array of songs from skiffle and country to rock 'n' roll, each one performed in their own unique style.

Admission is free Visitors can bring a picnic and relax on the lawns.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A FAILURE for all seasons. Until this week, my broadband service tended to crash out in heavy rain, wind or thunder. This week we discovered it doesn't like a heat-wave either. Wrong sort of sun.

WHAT sort of government can produce a list of 50,000 "enemies" and arrange for them to be imprisoned, detained or sacked in less than three days? Don't you get the impression that Turkey's post-coup crackdown was planned at least as well as the plot itself?

A FRIEND is just back from a windsurfing holiday in Greece. On a daily basis he pitted his taut-muscled physique and the latest hi-tech windsurfer technology against the fiercest squalls of the wild Aegean. Skipping the wave-crests, he hit speeds he had never dreamed of. He says the sensation was spoiled somewhat when he was overtaken by a bumble bee.



THE F-word raises its furry head. Andrea Leadsom said during her campaign for the Tory leadership: "I would absolutely commit to holding a vote to repeal the (fox) hunting ban. It has not proven to be in the interests of animal welfare whatsoever." Now Secretary of State for the Environment, will she be tempted to lift the hunting ban

to placate the landowning classes? Not if she has half a brain. There is no sensible reason why the pursuit of a small creature should arouse such ferocious political passions. It just does. Banning the hunt won Tony Blair thousands of votes in his 1997 landslide. Lifting the ban would cost Theresa May's government thousands more while satisfying only a few people who were Tory voters anyway.

BRITAIN'S best-known atheist Richard Dawkins and his wife, the former Doctor Who star Lalla Ward, have announced they have "separated entirely amicably." They insist they are still good friends, will continue working together and are sharing their house. So what's the difference between that and being married?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Senior councillors back move to demolish flats

PLANS to knock down four high-rise flats in Netherton have moved a step closer as they gained the backing of Dudley Council's cabinet members.

Senior councillors backed plans to demolish Arley Court, Compton Court, Manor Court and Wells Court at a meeting last Wednesday.

The authority has carried out a review of its housing stock, which revealed a huge spend was needed to keep the high-rises in good condition.

Bosses decided the four blocks, which were built in the 1960s, were no longer sustainable as they needed a minimum of £9.1 million spent on them in the short term.

Regrettable

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said the decision was an 'operational imperative' and the council's hand had been forced by its financial situation.

She said: "These are homes where there are real communities of long standing and with people much committed to their locality. It's regrettable that this means people will have to leave their homes. This is

By David Cosgrove

a life-changing decision and cabinet needs to acknowledge that. As a council we will do more than what is reasonably expected of us with dealing with the consequences of this decision."

Ward councillor Elaine Taylor previously estimated up to 300 residents could be affected. The scheme will now go in front of the place scrutiny committee in September before it could be rubber-stamped at a full council meeting in October.

Consultation with residents who live in the four blocks is ongoing.

Chiefs said a decision about the use had not yet been taken but it was likely to see 'new, lower-density builds'.

If demolition is given the green light, each tenant will then receive face-to-face meetings with officers.

Parks host play week activities

BOROUGH parks host play week activities from August 1-5 from noon to 4pm. They are in Huntingtree Park, Halesowen, Jubilee at Coseley, Mary Steven's Park in Stourbridge, Priory Park, Dudley and The Dell, Brockmoor.

Jobs boost on Waterfront



The Waterfront development, where 7,000 jobs will be created

AROUND 7,000 new jobs will be created when Chancellor Philip Hammond signs off on a new development to make the Waterfront the 'high tech office hub' of the Black Country.

The final plans for a new enterprise zone at Merry Hill, Dudley, have been submitted to the Government and are expected to be rubber-stamped in the autumn statement.

The Waterfront development, which is expected to inject around £600 million into the regional economy each year, will see a complete revamp of the existing site.

As well as reoccupying 18,000sq m of vacant office space, the zone, when fully built, will include up to 110,000sq m of new office space, 36,000sq m of new technology space and 65,000sq m of new industrial space. The total development is expected to deliver up to 7,000 new jobs and provide a £589m boost to the economy each year.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said: "It's fantastic news that the new enterprise zone, which will bring thousands of new jobs to Dudley, is moving a step closer."

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council, said: "This is extremely exciting news for Brierley Hill and the wider area."

Jail term as guns and drugs are found

ARMED police discovered two loaded guns at the home of a man previously jailed for possession of a loaded pump action shotgun, a judge heard.

One revolver, with three live rounds in the chamber, was hidden under a floorboard in the bathroom at the house in Victoria Road, Tipton, when the officers swooped at 3.30am on May 19, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The other pistol, loaded with four bullets, was concealed in a drawer in the divan bed where Imran Ahmed slept. A further 11 rounds of ammunition and a wrap of heroin were also discovered.

He had only been free for seven months following his release on licence from a five-year sentence for a firearms offence in which he was found in a vehicle with the shotgun, said Mr Lal Amarasinghe, prosecuting. The 36-year-old defendant - who was jailed for a further eight years - insisted he was 'holding' the weapons for gang members in an effort to pay off a drug debt and had been given the two handguns 10 days earlier by a man he met in a car park near his home but declined to name.

The DNA of Ahmed was found on the bullets in the weapons, said Judge John Wait. Ahmed admitted possession of firearms, ammunition and heroin and was jailed for eight years in total.

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WE ARE HERE



Jay Sayce, aged 15, from Dudley, looks for Pokemon at Priory ruins



Sam Dalloway, aged 23, Darragh Rafferty, 24, Lee Farmer, 28 at the gathering



Rajesh Gupta and his daughter Kavita, aged 13, from Dudley



Lee Farmer, aged 28, from Dudley, among the gamers at the Priory ruins



Enthusiasts check out the Pokemon during the gathering in Dudley

Pokemon fans Go Wylde

WHEN Keiran Wylde and his friends decided to set up a meet and greet for Pokemon Go players in the Black Country, they expected about 'two people to turn up'.

But around 80 flocked to their first event at Dudley Ruins.

Now the group has reached more than 400 members online and counting.

Keiran, aged 22, from Brierley Hill, said: "I know that Pokemon Go had a big following but how quickly the group has grown is quite astonishing really. All kinds of people have been turn-

ing up. I think the success of is the way the game works and all the PokeStops available that you need progress in the game. It does bring people together.

Keiran and five of his friends, all aged around 22 to 24, set up the group, called Pokemon Go: Black Country, for a bit of fun, but didn't expect it to grow so quickly.

Lazy

It is open for anyone to join on Facebook and Keiran said: "I would encourage everyone to get involved. We have families who attend and moms and dads will be playing alongside their children.

"It gets people out the house and walking. I am quite lazy but to be fair this gets me out the house."

He estimated around a dozen people will be at Dudley Ruins playing the game every day. "Some people will be there sitting in their cars until 3am," he said.

The group meets at the historic site normally every Saturday around 6-7pm.

"Everyone gets involved. If anyone finds a rare Pokemon you get lots of people running to try and catch it. Everyone takes chairs and umbrellas to the site, there is even an ice cream man who sets up there."



With Pikachu is Keiran Wylde, aged 22, of Dudley, who set up the group

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Our Sam will give region a loud voice

NEVER thought I would see it in my life-time, but the latest appointment to the highest office in the land has finally seen the glass ceiling shattered.

The new England manager is from Dudley. Let's hope that a generation from now, we will look back at the appointment of Sam Allardyce as a watershed moment in history, the beginning of a revolution which will mean that in years to come anybody of any importance will come from the Black Country.

The appointment of Big Sam means that at last the voice of the Black Country will finally be heard. At least in the changing rooms of Wembley. And very loudly too, if what some of his former players say is anything to go by.

NOT that I actually hold much hope for the England team under Allardyce's leadership, you understand.

As ever, we can probably expect a brief honeymoon period, some very solid results in the qualifying stages, and come the World Cup the players will then freeze on the big stage and go out with a whimper.

It's sad to admit it, but we just don't seem to be very good at football these days. Which probably explains why nearly everybody in England gets terribly excited by a Scotsman who is good at ping pong.

Then we have the Tour de France, which has just been one by an Englishman called Chris Froome. Good for him, he seems a decent sort of chap. But is cycling through the countryside really a sport? While competing at that level certainly requires a level of physical endurance that I could never compete with, it still essentially a group of people travelling by a slightly old-fashioned mode of transport. A bit like steam railway buffs or traction engine fans.

Now, having failed to get bridge recognised as an Olympic sport, English Heritage is suggesting that the medieval game of jousting should be considered for the 2020 Olympics.

So having failed miserably at the most popular game on earth, we are now turning our attention to riding bikes, playing cards, and encouraging blokes on horseback to jab at each other with blunted spears.

Who says we're a nation of couch potatoes?

GOING back to the England football team, have you ever heard anybody, in everyday conversation refer to England as the "Three Lions"?

"Eh Jim, you going down the pub to see the Three Lions' game?"

No, me neither. So why do the tabloids insist on referring to Allardyce as "the new Three Lions boss?"



Donald Neilson, known as the Black Panther



Lesley Whittle, who was kidnapped in 1975



The shaft where Lesley was kept

Grim murder that shook the nation

It's now 40 years since justice finally caught up with sinister killer, The Black Panther, as MARK ANDREWS reports

SERIAL killers do not come more sinister than Donald Neilson. He revelled in his nickname The Black Panther – given because of the way he swiftly pounced on his victims wearing a dark hood.

The army-obsessed former soldier planned his crimes with military precision and became perturbed when he felt the media did not give him the attention he craved.

And very few places were affected by the fear more than the West Midlands and Shropshire which was shaken to the core when Neilson abducted, and then murdered teenage heiress Lesley Whittle, having demanded a £50,000 ransom.

Terror

Her body was found in Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove, in 1975. He went on to kill security guard Gerald Smith at the Freightliner Terminal in Dudley, and had committed the murder of Sidney Grayland a year earlier by shooting him in Langley, Oldbury.

It is 40 years since Neilson was handed five life sentences at Oxford Crown Court for his year-long reign of terror which claimed five lives across Britain.

In court judge Mr Justice Mars-Jones told him that the enormity of his crimes put him in a class apart from almost all convicted murderers, and that he should never taste freedom again.

While Neilson was said to have cried in his prison cell after the sentence, former Shropshire Star editor Andy Wright who was in the court that day recalls him looking almost impassive while in the dock.

"He seemed pretty collected. I suppose there is an air of resignation when you have been



Shocking story and family pleas made the headlines

caught for crimes like this that you are going to be sent to prison for a long time," he says.

Neilson had killed three times before Lesley's murder, and once more afterwards. His victims included postmaster's husband Sidney from Langley and a security guard at the Dudley Freightliner rail terminal. But it was the death of 17-year-old Lesley, who was doing her A-levels at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun College, which really shook the nation.

"There was an awful lot of apprehension once it became clear he was also responsible for the murder in the Black Country, and the shooting in Dudley," remembers Mr Wright, who covered Lesley's abduction from start to finish.

"People were pretty unsettled that he was around. They had seen the photofits, and they would be looking their neighbours up and down. It was a very nervous time."

Neilson had snatched Lesley from her bedroom in Highley, near Bridgnorth in January 1975, leaving a ransom note punched on plastic Dymo tape, demanding £50,000 from her wealthy family. His ransom note was so detailed the message was more than 18 inches in length, giving specific instructions to deliver the money in a white van to the Swan shopping centre in Kidderminster.

Police initially wondered whether it might have been a student prank, but it quickly emerged he was very serious. Neilson had tethered Lesley by a noose in a drainage shaft beneath Bathpool Park, and it was there where her body would be found following a botched attempt by police to trap him during a ransom drop.

Neilson was born Donald Nappey in 1936, and was said to have suffered many taunts about his unfortunate surname while grow-

ing up in his home town of Bradford. He had served as a lance-corporal in the Army, but had struggled to settle into civilian life after giving up his military career to spend more time with his wife Irene and daughter Kathryn.

Fiercely protective of Kathryn, he changed his name to Neilson so she would not suffer bullying. He was also said to have been extremely possessive towards his wife, stopping her from seeing friends and subjecting her to frequent beatings.

He began as a prolific burglar, responsible for more than 400 unsolved break-ins. His offending stepped up a gear following a break-in at a house in Cheshire where, having discovered guns and ammunition, he decided armed robbery would be more lucrative.

Between 1971 and 1974, Neilson robbed 14 post offices, becoming increasingly more violent. He killed for the first time when he shot postmaster Donald Skepper during a robbery at Harrogate in February 1974. Police were quick to spot the link when he murdered another postmaster, Derek Astin of Baxenden, Lancashire, in September 1974.

Battered

It was just two months before he struck again, this time in Langley. He brutally battered sub-postmistress Margaret Grayland, and shot her husband Sidney dead.

However, when Neilson kidnapped Lesley the following January, police were slow to link the crime with the Panther murders. Neilson's carefully laid plans began to unravel during the botched ransom drop at Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove, yards from where Lesley was being held in a deep drainage shaft.

Lesley's brother Ronald was supposed to go to the park during the early hours and wait for Neilson to signal to him by flashing a torch. But, by coincidence, another couple turned up, resulting in confusion. Agitated, Neilson drove to Dudley where he attempted to rob the Freightliner terminal. During the raid, he shot security guard Gerald six times, causing him injuries which would result in his death the following year.

Lesley's body was not found until the following month, and Neilson would evade capture until November that year. Neilson died, aged 75, in 2011.

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Never voted for the EU super state

I WRITE in reply to Mr Fletcher of Tenerife/Dudley. He was obviously not around in the late 70s when we voted in the referendum on joining the 'Common Market'.

That's what we were voting for, a European Free Trade Area, not the creaking bureaucratic European super state that it is rapidly becoming.

I didn't vote to be ruled by unelected bureaucrats sitting in Strasbourg or Brussels. I want the government of my country to make the rules, after all, I elected them to do just that.

You obviously do not read the Financial Times, the stock market is higher now than before the vote. The chancellor also hinted that interest rates may fall.

The pound may be low against the dol-

No such thing as 'freebies'

US oldies seem to have upset an ex-pat living in Tenerife.

I would just like to like to point out that us oldies were the youngies who voted to join the Common Market all those years ago.

Most of us have regretted it ever since.

We oldies also know there are no such things as freebies, admittedly some people get things for nothing but somebody somewhere pays for them.

I would like G Fletcher to tell us if he/she still visits the UK for their health requirements or gets treatment from the free Spanish health service and returns their cold weather payments.

I think Common Market OK, European Union No.
P WILLIS
Stourbridge

lar and the Euro but it will recover when we start trading with the rest of the world. There are 169 other countries with whom we can do business.

I note you are currently resident in Tenerife, presumably working and paying taxes. You are lucky, Spain has one of the highest unemployment rates in the EU at over 20 per cent, compare that to the UK where it is a little over five per cent.

In the event of an emergency you will have no hesitation in high-tailing it back home, no doubt expecting the UK taxpayer to bail you and your family out.

Enjoy the sunshine (while it lasts)
TREVOR MANSELL
Stourbridge

Don't blame me for Brexit

I FEEL I must reply to the letter posted by G Fletcher stating that they wish to thank the elderly people for betraying the young of our country in the Brexit vote - how can you blame ALL the elderly people, have you asked each and everyone, because you missed me.

I voted to stay and I am sure I wasn't the only one so please don't assume it was just the elderly that voted to leave. I do know young people that voted to leave.

Concerning the freebies you stated that we get, I retired at the end of 2015 having worked until I was 69 never claiming benefits - just maternity benefit - always paying income tax and national insurance, so I think I am entitled to your so called freebies. Please lay off the elderly, everything that happens in the world is not our fault.
S PHILLIPS
Kingswinford

Sore loser

RE the sore loser letter from G Fletcher of Tenerife.

It's so factually incorrect on bus passes, free prescriptions, etc, which are all funded by the UK government - not the bloated EU.

And his reading of the stock market makes me think that his finger's not on the financial button at all!

As for his idyllic life in Tenerife, let's see how fast he tries to scurry back when the corrupt EU empire collapses and, one by one, remaining member nations demand their own referendums. Adios amigo!
MR D WALLACE
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Work with Corbyn for ordinary people

THE referendum brought about something other than exit from the EU; it demonstrated that our MPs are more committed to their party and careers than they are to their constituents.

The referendum came about through UKIP and because a large number of Conservative MPs demanded it, while Labour MPs were prepared to ignore their constituents and vote Remain.

Anti-Corbyn Labour MPs say they want a party that represents ordinary people. But where were they when

zero hours contracts were introduced, when the country was flooded with cheap labour instead of embracing new technology or when we stopped training nurses but stole them from abroad?

Corbyn may not be charismatic but he wants a return to policies that reflect the needs of ordinary people. What will the anti-Corbyn brigade do when he is re-elected, have another election? Why not work with him to get back to working for ordinary people?

B OSBORNE
Dudley

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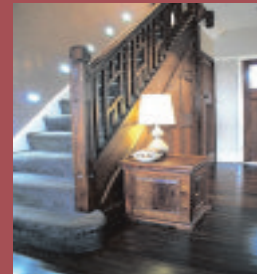
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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



Corporal Wendy Robert plays the Last Post during the unveiling of the memorial stone



Sandwell Mayor Julie Webb lays a wreath at the memorial stone in tribute to the bravery of Cpl Joseph John Davies, who was awarded the Victoria Cross



Joe James Thomas seen performing for the gathered crowd at the memorial



Veteran Dave Edmonds aged 77, with Royal Yeomanry Sgt Ian Nicholls and Cpl Tom Biddlestone based in Dudley



Cpl Joseph Davies seen in his uniform

Town remembers true hero Joseph

HE was 'one of the bravest of the brave' – Corporal Joseph Davies saved the lives of eight comrades during the Battle of the Somme.

His heroic actions at Delville Wood on July 20, 1916 later saw the dedicated soldier from Tipton awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V.

This bravery was celebrated on Saturday when a memorial stone honouring Cpl Davies was unveiled by his family at Victoria Park. Born on April 28, 1889, in Nock Street, Tipton, the military was in his blood as his father John had served with the Royal Fusiliers in India and the Afghanistan campaign of 1878 to 1880.

After attending Great Bridge Council School he went on to work at Old Park Works in Wednesbury before leaving to join the Army in 1909. He was serving in

India when the First World War broke out was soon redeployed to France. But in March 1915, he suffered shrapnel wounds to the head before having his knuckles smashed by a German bayonet a few months later. He was then on garrison duty in Gibraltar. In May 1916, now a corporal, he was sent to the 10th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers on the Somme.

Delville Wood was heavily defended by German troops and on July 20 the Fusiliers were ordered to attack, but the Germans launched their own counter-attack. They were successfully beaten off but then came back a second time. The Welsh continued to attack but in the general confusion they were fired upon by adjacent British troops.

During this time, Cpl Davies and eight men became separated from the rest of their company and suddenly found themselves surrounded. He managed to get his men into a shell hole and by throwing

bombs and opening rapid fire he succeeded in routing the Germans. Not content with this, he chased after them and bayoneted several of them.

Cpl Davies's bravery that day was witnessed by an officer who reported it and he received his Victoria Cross from King George V on October 7 1916 at Buckingham Palace. Civic receptions were also held in his honour in Tipton and Wednesbury.

He survived the war and went on to live in Bournemouth until his death on February 16, 1976, aged 86. He was married to Elsie and had two daughters Irene and Victoria as well as four grandsons and six great-grandchildren.

Cpl Davies's proud grandsons Mike Howard, 63, and Bernard Harvey, 66, and great-grandson Ian Harvey, 36, travelled from Dorset for the celebration event. "We are really proud. We've grown up with it but I didn't realise how special he was to people in Tipton," said Bernard.



The Northfield Caledonian Pipes and Drums help to give the event a bit of pomp and circumstance on Saturday



From left, Joe's great grandson Ian Harvey, aged 36, grandson, Mike Howard, 63 and grandson Bernard Harvey, 66



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Sir Lenny backs call to crown unsung heroes

SIR Lenny Henry CBE has become the latest celebrity to endorse the Express & Star's Great Big Thank You Awards.

The much-loved Dudley-born star was at Birmingham City University, where the actor, comedian and writer became Chancellor.

The 57-year-old was knighted last year for services to drama and charity and has been a prominent campaigner on increasing diversity in the arts.

Speaking of the Great Big Thank You Awards, Sir Lenny said: "There are a lot of unsung heroes out there in our communities and it's great the Express & Star is working to recognise these heroes, whether they be superb teachers, community leaders, much-loved neighbours, young stars or just people who go about their daily lives looking to make our communities better places to be."

Ceremony

The awards aim to recognise the diverse range of talent and skills in the Black Country, as well as those that make a difference to our communities.

People from across the region can nominate anyone for one of 10 prestigious awards: Teacher of the Year, Unsung Sporting Hero of the Year, Angel of the Year, Inspirational Leader of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, Young Star of the Year, Community Champion of the Year, Grandparents of the Year, Fundraiser of the Year or Environmentalist of the Year.

The awards ceremony will take place on January 19 next year at Molineux, in an event attended by well-known celebrities and significant figures. The aim is to put the spotlight on the people who bring our communities together. Someone who makes a difference to where you live, the work you do, or those you care about. Perhaps they are the person you always turn to



Sir Lenny Henry shows his support for the Thank You! Awards

for advice, someone who always goes the extra mile to help? Perhaps they have helped your area to improve?

Maybe they are just someone known as being someone you can trust to do the best for you and where you live? Or done their utmost to promote their Black Country roots, someone who has encouraged people to think more positively about the West Midlands and deserves to be 'Ambassador of the Year'?

You may know someone special who, even though they're so young, has strived to achieve their goals in the last 12 months, working hard in their chosen hobby or sport to triumph

against the adversity of an illness or long-term condition. Do you think they deserve the title 'Young Star of the Year'?

There might be someone you know who inspires people, someone with leadership qualities. Are they your 'Inspirational Leader of the Year'? Or maybe there is someone who is a true angel to you and your family, working tirelessly caring for someone you love?

We've launched a website where you can nominate your unsung heroes, and find out more about each category and the sponsors. Go to: <http://www.start-hankyou.expressandstar.co.uk/>

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Sun shines as vintage motors rolled out Classic car show hailed a Triumph by organiser



Maurice Cole with his Daimler Dart



Dexter Bradley, aged three, of Bilston



Damon Sykes with his 1932 MG J2 at West Midlands Classic Car Club show

THE sun shone as car enthusiasts showed off their gleaming motors in the historic surroundings of Dudley Zoo and Castle.

Dozens of vintage vehicles rolled into the castle courtyard in the heart of the zoo grounds for the West Midlands Classic Car Club show on Sunday.

Owners were on hand to talk to visitors about their cars which dated from the 1920s to the 1980s. Among them was John O'Callaghan from Stourbridge, who brought along his blue 1978 Triumph Stag and Damon Sykes from Oldbury with his 1932 MG J2.

Martyn and Anna Harbourn from Bewdley also joined in the fun with their series 1 Fixed Head E Type Jaguar.

Highlight

Show organiser Maurice Cole from Dudley brought along five of his cars which included a Daimler Dart from 1961. Mr Cole has described the event as the highlight of the club's year.

The West Midlands Classic Car Club was founded in 1978 and has more than 100 members from across the country, with the furthest living in Cornwall.

Mr Cole said the show was a great success, adding: "It was a fantastic day. We had 80-odd cars altogether and we were busy with visitors all day."

"It was our 28th year of holding the show at the zoo and as always everyone enjoyed themselves."

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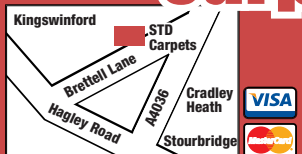
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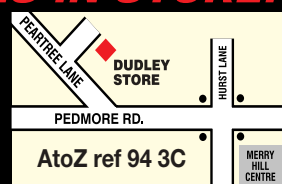
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Holiday season is upon us and we're getting ready to head off to sunny shores. But don't forget the sun cream. . .

Staying safe in the summer sunshine

Since the 1970s, the rate of malignant melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, has more than quadrupled in the UK. Despite all the warnings, people still underestimate the damage that sunburn can do to their skin.

Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital's Mr Darren Lewis, consultant plastic surgeon, who is also a skin cancer specialist, offers the following advice: "With the summer holiday season now here, people need to know about the risks of spending too much time in the sun and what can be done to keep safe; be more skin aware and take extra care."



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Shine on – left, always apply sun lotion, and inset, Mr Darren Lewis

to 10 to 20 minutes a day from May to September and shouldn't involve sunbathing or using sunbeds. In the UK, more than 50 people die from skin cancer each year, while working outside in construction, agriculture and leisure industries. We want people to enjoy the warmer weather but stay safe, especially when on holiday and take extra precautions if you have a fair complexion. Finally as we age, our skin becomes naturally drier and so we need to moisturise more and do this regularly."

For the opportunity to meet

Mr Darren Lewis and his colleague Mr Naiem Moimen, free mini consultations are being held with these consultant plastic surgeons at the Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital, on August 8, September 19 and October 12.

● To arrange a free mini consultation, contact the bookings team on 01902 793269 or go to www.nuffieldhealth.com/hospitals/wolverhampton

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"Protect your skin from the harmful effects of the sun – don't go red and don't burn. Children in particular need to be covered up or wear high factor sun cream because if you burn as a child, you are at a greater risk of developing skin cancer later on. When swimming, you need to re-apply sun screen afterwards."

Malignant melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer as it may potentially spread to other areas and can be fatal. The second, more common, type of skin cancer is non-melanoma skin cancer which includes basal cell carcinoma. This tends to be seen in older people but is sometimes found in younger people who have experienced prolonged sun exposure.

Mr Lewis goes on to say: "While we need some sun exposure to help us make vitamin D, this only amounts



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Pitter-patter of tiny hooves is heard at the zoo paddock

SUMMER isn't usually the season associated with reindeer – or the birth of any baby animals – but last week, on the hottest day of the year so far, a zoo welcomed a new arrival.

Seven-year-old reindeer Lily gave birth in the early hours and the youngster has already taken its first steps in the paddock at Dudley Zoo.

Senior keeper Sarah Evans said: "At first, Lily kept the calf indoors, possibly because of the heat. When it got slightly cooler, she took it out to join the herd."

"It's been feeding well, but we haven't got close enough to find out its sex yet."

"The rutting season is usually in the autumn, but we brought in a new alpha male called Ghost before Christmas and, clearly, he quickly got it down to business."

"It's wonderful to have the pitter-patter of tiny hooves again out in the paddock."

Meanwhile, a primate keeper at the Castle Hill attraction got crafty with power tools when it came to constructing new enrichment activities for the zoo's six black howler monkeys.

Recycling branches from pruned ash trees at the site, Jade Reddall drilled one-inch holes and filled them with warm mashed potato.

She said: "That's one of their favourite foods but I also added some mashed sweet potato too, so it gave them a different flavour to taste. I added them around their enclosure as well as clipping some onto the webbing rope, so that they could move them around. They reacted really well, it was brilliant to watch and all five howlers got involved as they worked to get the potato."



Seven-year-old reindeer Lily and her newborn calf ventured into the paddock when it got cooler at the zoo

Meetings focus on residents' issues

A SERIES of tenants and residents association meetings (TRAs) are being held next month.

The groups in Dudley discuss many issues relating to their estates and discuss ideas of how they can help to make improvements to enrich residents' lives.

The meetings include one hosted by Old Park Farm TRA at Sycamore Centre on August 1 at 6pm.

Vicarage Prospect TRA will host a coffee morning on August 2 at 63 Claverley Court from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

Corbyns Bromley TRA's meeting is taking place at 7pm on August 8 at Pensnett Bromley Senior Citizens Club.

Norton Green TRA is holding a walkabout of the estate on August 22. Residents should be meet in Caslon Crescent at 2pm. Wollaston Farm TRA is hosting a community information day on August 26 at Kent Road Park, from 10am until 3pm.

Anyone who wishes to attend the meetings should telephone 01384 815168 to ensure the meeting is still taking place, as they may be subject to change.

'Despicable' driver gets two years road ban

A MOTORIST was prepared to ask four people to lie in a desperate bid to avoid a conviction for dangerous driving, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Adnan Aslam originally insisted that he was not behind the wheel of the Mazda which failed to stop when instructed by police – and tried to construct an alibi for his trial.

But before the case could be heard the 30-year-old had a change of heart and admitted responsibility.

He had been seen going slowly through a red traffic light in Stafford Street, Dudley, before accelerating away when ordered to stop by officers in a patrol car.

Mr Andrew Wilkins, prosecuting, also revealed that motor trader Aslam went the wrong way round a traffic island and raced through streets at up to 60 mph, forcing police pursuers to give up the chase because it presented too great a danger to other road users.

Crashed

But he was spotted soon afterwards in Sandyfields Road, Sedgley, where he again refused to halt, so a police van was used to block his path in Zoar Street, Gornal Wood.

The defendant managed to squeeze past the obstruction but crashed into a nearby police car, ignored another red light and continued to drive in Dudley where the Mazda was finally found parked on the drive.

Miss Sarah Buckingham, defending, explained: "He

By John Scott

was unable to face up to his responsibilities because he was terrified of going to prison."

Judge John Wait observed: "This was a determined attempt to escape from police officers. He then set up an elaborate defence seeking to have four people perjure themselves in court before abandoning his claim that he was not the driver."

"This had been deliberate deception that caused this case to be listed for trial on more than one occasion."

"When the police caught up with him he lied, continued to lie and tried to get others to lie. He is a coward."

"His behaviour that night was despicable, as was his behaviour afterwards, until he came to his senses and pleaded guilty."

Aslam from Beech Green, Old Park Farm, Dudley, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and was given an eight-month jail sentence suspended for two years with 200 hours unpaid work together with £2,800 costs, a £2,000 fine and a two-year driving ban.

Revamp of pitches after £1,800 grant

A SPORTS group has netted a £1,800 grant to revamp its football pitches.

Kinver Sports and Community Association will use the cash to buy much-needed goalposts, a line marker, flags and posts for use on the village's pitch in Legion Drive.

The funding, from Councillor Brian Edwards and South Staffordshire District Council, means more teams will be able to use the facilities.

Chairman of Kinver Sports and Community Association Rachel Davis said: "We are very grateful to county, district and parish councillor Brian Edwards MBE who provided £1,000 from his members budget as well South Staffordshire District Council who funded the remainder of the cost."

"The new equipment allows both pitches to be used simultaneously which means more teams can make use of Kinver's great football facility."

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Pal's pride over best man's England appointment

NOT many can claim that they had an England manager as their best man. Yet that is exactly what Brian Milner from Dudley can proudly say now that his childhood friend Sam Allardyce has taken on arguably the biggest job in English football.

"I want to say how proud we are of Sam and how much we are all supporting him. He still has a lot of friends around here," says the 61-year-old.

Brian still lives in the same house on Ash Green in Dudley, across the communal green from where Allardyce grew up at number one. It was on that very grass that they used to play football together with other neighbouring children.

The pair both attended Sycamore Green Primary and then went on to do their secondary education at Wren's Nest School, later known as Mons Hill School.

Fate

"We used to muck about and play 20-a-side on the green. We had some fun and Sam was always a good friend. He was loyal.

"From the age of about three to around 15 he was like a brother, because we grew up together," said Brian.

It was at the age of 15 that Allardyce, who was already impressing at Dudley Town, was spotted by a Bolton Wanderers scout and made the move up north. However that wasn't the end of his and Brian's friendship.

As fate would have it the two friends both fell for women called Lynn, and all four of them would meet up back in Dudley for nights out.

Then came the weddings. "I got married in May 1974 and he got married in June," said Brian. "My wedding was at a registry office in Dudley, and his was a big do in a castle in Cheshire.

"He must have been in the first team at Bolton by then. I can't believe it



Brian Milner with pictures of himself and best man 'Big Sam' Allardyce

was 42 years ago." Of course since then Allardyce has moved from pitch to touchline, and the delight that Brian feels towards his friend's managerial success was evident from the fact that he was watching rolling news coverage of 'Big Sam's' appointment when interviewed.

Perhaps his famously tall stature was an indication that he was destined

to reach great heights. Brian added: "He has always been big Sam. He was 5ft 10 by the time he was 11, and he was as big as the teachers at our school. He was always a giant of a man. I remember he used to like going in goal because of his height."

Early on he also showed that he was prepared to put in the hard work. "He had got the determination," says Brian.

"He would take on all sorts of jobs – these footballers would laugh now – but he would think nothing of cutting grass for someone."

Although they haven't seen each other in person for many years, Brian is still in regular contact through Facebook with Lynn Allardyce, who has been keeping him updated with his friend's career, including his latest appointment.

Helm

Brian, a factory worker at Pressvess in Kingswinford, is now looking forward to watching future England matches with his old mate at the helm. He enjoyed playing in community teams for years, and has passed his love of football on to his three children and four grandsons.

His eldest grandson Raymond Milner is showing promise at Dudley Town. "He has only just turned 17 but he is already playing in the adult team, and he won the Dudley College Sports Player of the Year," says his grandfather proudly.

Another grandson, 11-year-old Kyle, plays for Lye Town.

Meanwhile if you want to hear from a pundit who has his fair share of background knowledge on the new England manager, look no further than Brian.

Lamenting our exit from the Euros, he adds: "Don't worry. Sam will tighten up that defence."

Improved school is praised by inspectors

A SCHOOL in Kingswinford has been praised by Ofsted inspectors for making improvements.

Crestwood Park Primary, in Lapwood Avenue, was rated as 'good' by the education watchdog following an inspection in June – a step up from its 2014 rating of 'requires improvement'.

Inspectors said the school had improved since their previous visit and was 'good' overall. It was also rated good in all inspection categories – effectiveness of leadership and management, quality of teaching, learning and assessment, personal development, behaviour and welfare, outcomes for pupils and early years provision.

The school, which has 200 pupils, was previously told it required improvement following an inspection in February 2014.

Headteacher Maggie Stowe said: "It has been down to everybody pulling together, all the hard work of the staff."

In a new report, an inspector said: "The school has improved since the previous inspection and continues to do so. The headteacher leads the school with passion to deliver on its aim to 'be the best you can be to achieve all that you deserve'."

"She is well supported by an effective senior leadership team. Achievement is good and pupils make good progress in reading, writing and mathematics."

Pupils' behaviour and progress also came in for praise in the report.

Charity milestone reached at gym

A DUDLEY gym has reached a fund-raising milestone, collecting £20,000 for local charities over the last five years.

Unique Fitness for Ladies Only, in Castle Hill, nominate a different charity each year and hold activities such as sponsored aerobathons, raffles and fun days. This year they have raised more than £3,500 which will buy two syringe drivers for drip machines for the Premature Baby Unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

Some money will also be donated to an animal charity.

For the first time this year some of the gym members took up the challenge to reach 2,000 calories in under two hours using the hardest equipment in the gym.

Views sought on community issues

DUDLEY Community Safety Partnership wants views on crime, substance abuse and anti-social issues.

A consultation event takes place in Dudley Council House, Priory Road, on September 28 from 6.30-9pm.

Warden 'left for dead' by angry driver

A TRAFFIC warden was knocked down and 'left for dead' in a Dudley street by a furious motorist he had just booked, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The Mercedes driven by Mohammed Nazabuth, of Crabbe Street, Stourbridge, struck warden Anthony Harris moments after he had put a ticket on it, explained Miss Amy Jackson, prosecuting.

The 30-year-old driver jumped into the 4x4 that was parked illegally in Castle Street, Dudley, and drove off as the warden was taking a picture of the vehicle.

Mr Harris was hit on the leg by the Mercedes and knocked into the bonnet when the vehicle suddenly moved forward. Nazabuth ordered him to get out of

the way because he was in a hurry and the warden was then hit in the chest by a wing mirror of the car sped off. The motorist drove off without checking the condition of the injured man during the incident on September 18.

Miss Jackson said the experience had affected the confidence of Mr Harris and left him considering a change of career.

Mr Richard Butcher, defending, claimed Nazabuth had sat in the car for a short time waiting for the warden to complete his business before leaving. He conceded: "He accepts his vehicle came into contact with the man."

"He failed to appreciate the warden had to take a photograph and mercifully the injuries the man

suffered were of the lighter kind. He was not trying to avoid the parking ticket."

The defendant, a delivery driver in the family butchery business, had several previous convictions, including one for wounding. He pleaded guilty to causing bodily harm by wanton and furious driving.

He was jailed for 10 months and banned from driving for a year.

Recorder Ben Mills, told him: "This must have been utterly terrifying for the traffic warden. You sped off without a care for his well being, leaving him shaken, dazed and hurt. You just left him for dead. He was just doing his job and people like him, who are working for the public, need to be protected by the courts."

Mystery over abuse as carer sent to jail

A CARER took the secret of why he abused a severely disabled man to jail with him as he started a seven month prison sentence.

The 44-year-old victim – whose severe learning difficulties meant that he was totally dependent on others to look after him – was found drenched in deodorant with bruised ears after being in the sole care of Nicholas Howard.

When the 32-year-old changed shift and handed over responsibility to a colleague she discovered the resident was covered in so much white powder it had etched his profile into the sofa on which he was sitting in a bungalow at Badger Court, Stourbridge, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

She also saw the ears of the man, who had been in care since childhood, were bruised, added Mr Stephen Thomas, prosecuting. Police were called and an investigation launched.

Father of one Howard denied being to blame and suggested that the injury could have been the result of self-harm. He did accept the victim's deodorant was locked away in the bathroom but claimed he could have taken his own personal deodorant from his bag and sprayed it while he was not looking.

Unlikely

This was rejected by expert witnesses, including an occupational therapist who dismissed the version of events as 'highly unlikely' and the jury found the defendant guilty of ill treatment following a trial. The case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report until Monday.

Mr David Munro, defending, said Howard had deliberately sought a job caring for others after being made redundant and had been doing the work for 18 months when the incident occurred on May 28, 2014.

"This awful business was wholly out of character and the consequences for him and his family are grave," he said.

The defendant's daughter suffered from a chronic condition and the family were now in danger of defaulting on their mortgage after he was sacked.

Howard, of Roberts Green Road, Dudley – of previous good character – was sent to prison and banned from working with the young and vulnerable.

Judge Amjad Nawaz, said: "You were the only person caring for him when this occurred and only you know how it came about."

De Sarah West said: "We still don't really know why Howard carried out this abuse."

Real ale fans' reason to celebrate



James Stevens, Councillor Pete Lowe, Dudley Mayor Mohammed Hanif and festival organiser Steve Edwards

A CIDER alternative will also be available at the Dudley Beer Festival in Brierley Hill Civic Hall this weekend.

Part of the wider Black Country Festival, the Bank Street venue will host the festival from noon each day with ales on sale from a dozen Black Country breweries and elsewhere.

Meet the brewer sessions will run each day along with a comedy night tomorrow (Friday), music

on Saturday and a Fizzog Productions performance on Sunday.

Meanwhile, hopes are high that the three-day Dudley Winter Ales Fair usually held in November could yet be saved.

Emergency

An emergency meeting to call for volunteers who can help roll out the barrels and keep it alive was being held this week after real

ale enthusiasts revealed the event faced folding due to a lack of helpers – despite the popular event attracting hundreds of people and outgrowing its original home in Netherton.

Tony Morgan, branch secretary for Stourbridge and Halesowen Campaign for Real Ale, said he was hopeful of a positive outcome after a meeting was being held at Dudley's Lamp Tavern earlier this week in a bid to save the festival.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pupils work to rid park of litter

TWO schools in Hagley have played a key role in combatting litter problems. Haybridge High and Hagley Catholic High School have been working on two designs to be put on new bins in Hagley Park, near the train station, to encourage people to stop littering.

Both schools also send staff to monitor litter in their local community during the summer months.

Councillor Steven Colella, Hagley West district councillor and chairman of Hagley Parish Council, said: "The school has done some really positive work to try and tackle the problem."

Homes bid lodged for old pub site

TWENTY homes could be built on brownfield land in Cradley Heath after plans were submitted to Sandwell Council.

Bennington Developments has put forward the proposals for 12 one-bed and seven two-bedroom homes on the site in Graingers Lane.

According to a design statement submitted as part of the scheme, the site includes a public house, but this is now vacant and the site is overgrown.

Fencing has been erected to deter trespassers. Council planners will rule on the application in due course.

Glyndebourne is beamed to venue

CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED opera Beatrice et Benedict will be broadcast live in the Black Country next month.

Hector Berlioz's musical version of Shakespeare's battle of the sexes comedy Much Ado About Nothing is being performed at the Glyndebourne Festival and broadcast live to Stourbridge Town Hall on August 9.

Tickets cost £16 adults and £12 children, for further information call the box office on (01384) 812812.

One-way in place as roadworks carried out

A BUSY road in Tipton will become one-way for 10 days while roadworks take place.

Work started on Alexandra Road and Horseley Road on Monday and will run until August 4.

The street close to The ACE Academy will be resurfaced, according to Sandwell Council highways bosses. Sandwell Highways tweeted: "Alexandra Road/Horseley Road #Tipton will be one-way July 25 to August 4 for resurfacing."

Blood donor sessions

BLOOD donors are needed in Brierley Hill. Sessions will run on August 25 from 2pm until 3.30pm and from 4.30pm until 7.30pm at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street. Appointments can be booked by calling NHS Blood and Transplant on 0300 1232323 or visiting my.blood.co.uk

Artwork used to drive campaign

HALESOWEN College graphics students were challenged to use words and images in a campaign for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender awareness.

Students put together posters to influence and reflect their era and to comment on social issues in a campaign for LGBT tolerance and awareness.

Elly Barnes who has developed the Educate and Celebrate Best Practice Programme and colleague Zitta Lomax judged the students' posters.

They found the standard really high and thought-provoking.

Two students were given joint first place – Daniyal Khan and Serena Henderson. Second place went to George Thorne and third to Oliver Wigley-Mattheison.

Gillian Dunkerley, Graphics lecturer at Halesowen College, said: "Well done to all our brilliant students who made such a good job of this assignment that aims to promote understanding and tolerance."

YouTube sensation at Symphony Hall



Back off haters – Miranda Sings is a massive success

INTERNET sensation Miranda Sings is coming to Birmingham next month.

The lipstick smeared wannabe with no discernible talent is about to star in new Netflix TV series Haters Back Off and is the comic creation of Californian singer and actress Colleen Ballinger.

The quirky YouTube star, who has been viewed more than 60 million times via the video network, has been a smash hit with her own take on dance styles such as twerking. Miranda'd up versions of recent hit songs and hapless self-help tutorials.

Tickets cost £30 (plus £3 commission) for her concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday, August 13, at 8pm. See the thsh.co.uk website. Call 0121 780 3333.

Other comedy highlights coming up at the Symphony Hall include South Shields comic Sarah Millican on August 29 and 30. Its sister venue Birmingham Town Hall features Bake Off and Thronecast host Sue Perkins on September 18, Romesh Ranganathan exploring his own 'Irrational' views on October 9 and 12, and Jason Byrne on October 16.

New Mayoral powers 'inadequate' – claim

WEST Midlands' Police & Crime Commissioner has warned the proposed powers of the combined authority's metro mayor are totally inadequate.

David Jamieson says the mayor, who will be elected for three years in 2017, will have a role that has been reduced to the very minimum and will not wield the power to effectively run the West Midlands Combined Authority.

He also hit out at the mayor's proposed salary, calling the figure of between £40,000 and £50,000 a year way below the expected level.

Mr Jamieson said: "What they are proposing does not match the ambitions that the Government has for the area in terms of the powers of the mayor.

"This should be a position of great authority, but instead the board has shown political timidity. It is totally inadequate. We are left with a role that has been reduced to the very minimum."

MEP calls for referendum on return of death penalty

UKIP leadership contender Dudley's Bill Etheridge has called for the reintroduction of the death penalty to 'rid British society' of its worst criminals.

The candidate said 'the very worst crimes deserved the ultimate penalty' as he called for a referendum on capital punishment, which was abolished in the UK in 1965.

It is part of Mr Etheridge's manifesto as he bids to replace Nigel Farage as party leader. But critics have questioned why he backs a policy favoured in dictatorships such as North Korea.

The West Midlands MEP, who is also a Dudley councillor, said: "Time and time again, in recent years, terrible crimes have been committed and the public left with no real sense of justice.

Debate

"I believe the time is now right to allow a full and open debate on the issue of the death penalty culminating in a referendum of the British public to settle this issue.

"For my part I believe that the very worst crimes deserve the ultimate penalty and I propose that those who murder and rape children, those that

commit sadistic acts of murder and torture and those that commit acts of murder through terrorism against our country or our people should be subject to the death penalty at the discretion of the presiding judge.

"We must rid British society of these people. I would vigorously promote this line of thinking in a debate and trust the British people to make the decision on this ultimate matter of conscience."

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, said: "I am surprised that Bill wants Britain to be more like Iran, North Korea and Uganda."



UKIP Euro MP Bill Etheridge

Cancer support offered for free

FREE cancer support sessions are being offered at the White House in Dudley.

The course begins on August 16 and run until September 20.

The course is run for adults living with cancer and aims to help people take more control over their health.

Topics covered over the six-week course include getting a good night's sleep, coping with difficult emotions/depression, relaxation techniques, exercise and healthy eating, communicating with family, friends and health professionals, dealing with pain and extreme tiredness.

The sessions last for two-and-a-half hours with refreshment breaks of tea and biscuits.

Free parking is available at the site. To sign up, call White House Cancer Support on 01384 23123 or call Dudley Self-Management Team on 01384 816437.

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Beck's back with furious fretwork Sky's the limit for wise guy musical

ALBUMS

By Leon Burakowski

HERE'S a rarity, a genuine rock guitar legend who seems to be getting angrier as he gets older.

Whilst others from his generation may choose gentle blandness, Jeff Beck is back with a piledriver punk-blues sound collaboration with London duo Bones (singer Rosie Bones and guitarist Carmen Vandenberg) on **Loud Hailer**, his first album in six years.

The messages ain't subtle, laying into politicians, the rich and warmongers, but Beck's playing is superb, even if he sometimes sounds like a guest on his own record.

Scottish rockers **Biffy Clyro** have gone from quirky alt-rockers to stadium fillers. Seventh album **Ellipsis** starts off in potent style with *Wolves* of Winter reminding listeners of Simon Neil's vocal power and the lithe potency of the band at their Chili Pepper hottest. However, after that things slide into blandness with the exception of the pulsating *Animal Style*.

Thirty years on from their debut, popular Swedish pop-rock duo **Roxette** (Marie Fredriksson and Per Gessle) still have a knack for big melodic ballads (It Just Happens, April Clouds) and pop anthems (Why Dontcha?, Good Karma, Some Other Summer) on album number 10, entitled **Good Karma**.

A mellow introspection seems to have crept up on California's sock-bothering funk-rockers **Red Hot Chili Peppers** on their 11th album as **The Getaway** is a slow grower rather than the instant gratification we're used to from them. It's the outfit's first album in decades without Rick Rubin at the controls but Danger Mouse keeps the sound streamlined. Singer Anthony Kiedis, bass star Flea, drummer Chad



Jeff Beck with the Bones singer Rosie Bones and guitarist Carmen Vandenberg

Smith and guitarist Josh Klinghoffer remain a tight unit. Highlights include the sullen *Dark Necessities* and the downbeat anthem *The Longest Way*.

The Essential Louise Goffin Vol 1 is the eighth album from the eldest daughter of musical greats Carole King and the late Gerry Goffin. She is a talented singer-songwriter in the New York tradition, though her pleasant and intelligent folk-pop is always likely to be overshadowed by her parent's incredible musical legacy. However, she takes that head-on with a credible version of (You Make Me Feel) Like A Natural Woman. Highlights include her duet with another famous offspring, Jakob Dylan, on *Take A Giant Step*, the Go-Go's-ish *Watching The Sky Turn Blue* and the Lana Del Ray-like *Devil's Door* (with Cyanide Social Club).

Multi-instrumentalist Joe Mount (AKA **Metronomy**) is back with sleek, funky album **Summer 08** in which the maverick Devonian creates sparse and tightly sprung rhythms in the mode of Girls & Boys era Prince. Openers *Back Together* and *Miami Logic* could al-

most be a tribute to the late great funk-rock star in his Purple patch. Highlights include single *Old Skool*, soul pop gem *My House* and the *Hang Me Out To Dry* collaboration with Robyn.

Only previously available on vinyl albums, Various Artists double CD **Africa Airways One & Two** is an invigorating introduction to African funk from the 70s and early 80s. Several big hitters are here including Cameroon sax star Manu Dibango (Mimbo) and South Africa's Myriam Makeba (with a tribute to Toyota cars!). Best are a couple of propulsive rare grooves, Tala AM's *Black Gold* and Jo Tongo's *Jangalo*.

Minor Victories are an indie supergroup, featuring Mogwai's Stuart Braithwaite, Slowdive singer Rachel Goswell, Editors guitarist Justin Lockey and his brother James. On their self-titled debut they create an atmospheric shoegaze revival sound with waves of guitar-synth topped by Rachel's soothing vocal. It's very nice, particularly if formative years were spent listening to the Cocteau Twins, *Kitchens of Distinction* and, indeed, *Slowdive*.

REVIEW

By Graeme Andrew

Guys and Dolls
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

STAYING true to the original, the rollicking musical love-story, *Guys and Dolls* – set among the illegal craps-game hoodlums of New York's 1930s – brought a breath of fresh air to an otherwise rather sticky Grand Theatre.

The first thing to gain the audience's attention on arriving at their seat, apart from the heat – yep, hottest night of the year, and dressing up to the nines was not really a welcome option – was the set, there and ready.

No curtain to raise, just a solo trumpet's jazzy meanderings helping transport us back to the seedy underworld of nearly a century ago.

The array of old-style advertising hoardings were a treat to look at as they hung over the stage...then ker-zam! Light explodes, bringing the signs' colours to life; the orchestra crashes into action, and we're off.

Charm

Nathan Detroit is the kingpin of the craps game – dice to you and me – and he is being chased around town by the cops as he tries to find a venue for the next evening's entertainment.

Played by Frank Sinatra in the famous film, Maxwell Caulfield – yes, he of *The Colbys* fame – brings a certain happy-go-lucky charm to the role, hounded by showgirl Miss Adelaide, admirably portrayed by Louise Dearman, to whom he's been engaged for 14 years.

It is their chemistry that helps move things along while fellow craphooters Nicely Nicely Johnson (Jack Edwards) and Benny Southstreet (Mark Sangster) hound the hapless Detroit for a



Richard Fleeshman takes centre stage as Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls

game. Entering into the melee is of course Sky Masterson, Richard Fleeshman, who is egged on as a bet to take out Salvation Army girl, Sarah Brown (Bethany Lindsell).

Fleeshman revels in the opportunity to strike a pose in his zoot suit, with his matinee idol good looks and a voice to match, showing a velvety tone Sinatra himself would have been proud of.

But it is Jack Edwards as Nicely who brings things to a head in the brilliantly conceived prayer meeting scene which showcases *Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat* – so much so that it is reprised several times!

Made famous by Stubby Kaye in the movie, Edwards's performance is a respectful nod to what is generally regarded as the defining Nicely Nicely portrayal.

The fact that he is of a similar build helps matters, but his voice simply soars, making the scene inside the mission hall the best by far, with the whole cast gelling brilliantly together.

Choreographically, there were moments when there seemed to be maybe too much going on to take in all at

once. However, the big scene did not disappoint – the craps game itself, with highly-effective lighting to simulate the sewers, almost like a strobe light at times while figures blitzed around the stage like dervishes. Brilliant.

Finally, the comedy laurels must be awarded to Louise Dearman as Adelaide – a stage veteran with an impressive CV, who wrung as many laughs as she could out of the script and let the lyrics tell their own story without trying to over-perform them.

Thankfully, the musical numbers Sue Me, *Take Back Your Mink*, and Adelaide's *Laments*, more than held their own, and it wasn't a case of just building up to the inevitable *Luck Be a Lady*, which was relatively low-key in comparison, perhaps rightly so, as there are so many other song highlights.

In a world of pop performer's songs being joined together with flimsy plots, it's nice to see that traditional musicals such as this can still hold their own, but then that could be me being a bit picky – so, I'd better sit down, I'm rockin' the boat.



Jack Holmes at work restoring a Boulton Paul Balliol aircraft



Frank Clarke (right) at work at Boulton Paul with two colleagues



The Boulton Paul Balliol prototype in flight over Wolverhampton Airport

Small aircraft section with a big reputation

IN 1936 around 600 Norfolk men moved to Wolverhampton. They had worked for the Aircraft Department of Boulton & Paul Ltd in Norwich, a diverse company most famous for its woodwork, but which had built aircraft since 1915.

The aircraft section remained small but with a big reputation. It had built more Sopwith Camels than Sopwiths themselves, the first all-metal aircraft delivered to the Royal Air Force, the first aircraft with an enclosed power operated gun turret and the R.101 Airship, still the largest aircraft ever built in Great Britain.

From 1926-29 the company's factory was filled with all the innumerable parts of the airship's structure, which would make an aircraft nearly 800ft long and 130ft in diameter. Steel girders

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

70ft long, with twist and curve, to a tolerance of plus or minus 0.3 in, which when delivered to the giant airship sheds at Cardington, had to fit perfectly.

When the aircraft department was sold off, and moved to a new factory at Pendeford, the men had little choice but to uproot their families and move. One of them was Frank Clarke, who was to become the last survivor of the men who worked on the R.101.

In 1938 he completed 25 years service with the company and was given a silver mug, engraved with the signatures of more than 100 of his colleagues, including men who had made the same move from Norwich like Bill Monument and Alf Charlton, and men newly employed in Wolverhampton, like

test pilot, Cecil Feather. This mug has been donated to the Tetterhall Transport Heritage Centre by his daughter, along with some of Frank's tools, photographs, and wartime ARP badges.

When the mug was donated, Jack Holmes, the first Honorary Member of the TTHC, was present.

Signature

He too had made the journey from Norwich, with his father, Billy Holmes, mother and brother, and was able to find his father's signature on the mug, and to recognise many of the men who he was later to work alongside, when he was apprenticed.

The Heritage Centre has on display many of the artefacts which has made the city's transport heritage so rich, but also tries to highlight the individual contributions of ordinary men like Frank Clarke and Jack Holmes.



The R.101 airship in flight



The engraved silver mug presented to Frank Clarke



Frank Clarke (in glasses, seated) at Boulton Paul event



The factory in Norwich filled with R.101 girders

Site boss takes pride in award

A DUDLEY builder has been honoured for his dedication in the first round of an annual job awards ceremony.

Gareth Woodhouse has been honoured for his dedication to building homes of exceptional quality in the first round of the annual NHBC Pride in the Job Awards.

Mr Woodhouse, of Taylor Wimpey Midlands, won the award for his management of the Woodall Grange site in Dudley, joining almost 450 other Quality Award winners from across the UK.

Pride in the Job is now in its 36th year. As well as undergoing spot checks on the day-to-day running of the sites, each site manager is assessed across 37 areas, including their technical knowledge, consistency in the build process and the quality controls they have in place.

The regional winners will go forward to contest the national supreme winner title in their category at the Pride in the Job Gala final in London in January.

Temporary base for pupils as school building delayed

DOZENS of pupils will have to be taught in council offices for up to a year due to a delay in building work at their new school.

Sacred Heart Primary in Tipton plans to move to a new site in May but in the meantime 60 youngsters will be schooled in a temporary base.

Delays to its new base off Dudley Road East mean pupils will be housed in the Grade II listed Carnegie Building from September 1 until next year. Proposals for a change of office use have been submitted to planners at Sandwell Council.

The school's current site, on Victoria Road, cannot support the number of new pupils it has

taken on which is why it requires additional teaching space at Carnegie Building.

It is now taking on an extra 60 pupils each September in reception classes, and will aim to move to its new premises by next May, expanding to 420 places in total.

While the move to expand school places has been welcomed, concerns have been raised about potential parking issues. Tipton Green ward Councillor Ian Jones said: "Residents in Mayfair Gardens are already complaining about traffic and that there has been no parking."

"The parking situation will get worse with the new school being built."

"We will need to address the concerns of residents. The new school will make the situation worse because parents are parking when drop-

ping off their children. More plans will need to be put forward to address the parking concerns."

Fellow ward Councillor Ahmadul Haque MBE said parking was an issue but would be resolved over time. "I believe the expansion of the school is a good decision," she said. "It is providing school places for children in the area."

"The parking issue will be sorted out. We need to build new school facilities for our future generations."

The school will use the Carnegie Building for a maximum of 60 pupils and seven full time members of staff. It will be split into two classes of 30 children, and it has been proposed pupils aged eight to 11-years-old will be taught there.

The move will help the functioning of the school through the academic year 2016/17.

Donation after charity haircut

A HALESOWEN College student has made a special donation of her hair to help children who have lost theirs during cancer treatment.

Abigail Caplen's hair will be donated to The Little Princess Trust which provides real hair wigs to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland who have lost their own hair.

She was given the hair cut by Level Three hairdressing student Charlotte Whatmore at the College's campus at Shenstone House.

The hairdressing students also raised money through a cake sale.

Abigail said: "I have wanted to do this for some time and I have been really pleased with the response. Thank you to everyone for their support."

Abigail studies science, maths and business at college and is a former pupil of Redhill School.

Skills hub work is forging ahead



Trevor Ayre, senior vice president of the Institute of Cast Metal Engineers, Professor Ian Oakes, deputy vice-chancellor, Wolverhampton University, Martin Dudley from Thomas Dudley and Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP

WORK is about to begin on part of a new jobs-boosting manufacturing skills centre in Tipton. Project bosses gathered for the start of demolition work at the Dudley Port site where a hub teaching foundry and pattern-making skills is due to be built.

The enterprise will be an arm of a new £12 million Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) in Wolverhampton, with training hubs also in West Bromwich and Dudley. Students in Tipton will have access to the industrial facilities at the Thomas Dudley foundry on the same site.

The aim of the training centres, made possible by £8m investment from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, is to improve productivity and growth in the high-value manufacturing sector.

They are also designed to bring together business partners and education providers, including Dudley College, the Confederation of British Metalforming, Cast Metals Federation and the Institute of Cast Metals Engineers, who are investing £4m.

Led by the University of Wolverhampton, the project will collectively provide specialist training in toolmaking, foundry skills, pattern-making, metalforming, forging, manufacturing management and leadership and project management.

The toolmaking spoke will be principally located in West Bromwich under the guidance of the Confederation of British Metalforming. Metal joining and advanced machining training will be covered by the installation of new equipment and the use of existing equipment at the recently opened Dudley Advance at Dudley College.

The Wolverhampton centre, at the old Springfield Brewery, is to open next August.

Students in poster vote

GRAPHICS students at Halesowen College have been competing for votes in a special Camper Jam poster competition.

Lecturer Gillian Dunkerley exhibited a range of work at the Camper Jam 2016 show at Weston Park and asked visitors to vote on the winner. She received more than 200 votes and was involved in some lively and heated arguments.

First place went to Rhys Bramley, second place was Charley Radford and third place Shaun Williams.

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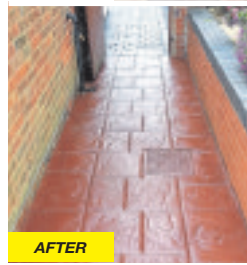
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Cleaning pond pump filters on to-do list

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Take cuttings of new shoots of camellias, rooting them in a gritty compost in a covered propagator.
2. Clean pond pump filters to ensure they don't get clogged up with algae.
3. Harvest Japanese onions planted last autumn.
4. Thin out heavy crops of apples, picking off small, damaged fruits to give the rest more room.
5. Continue to pick sweet peas for cut flowers indoors or remove dead seed heads to ensure that plants continue to flower.
6. Feed established wisteria with a high potash liquid feed to promote flowering.
7. Layer non-flowering side shoots of carnations to raise new plants.
8. Water blue hydrangeas with a solution of colourant to ensure blue varieties remain blue in future and prompt pink ones to turn blue.
9. Top up levels of ponds and water features as water evaporates.
10. Pick ripe tomatoes as they form and remove leaves below the lowest truss to improve air circulation.
11. Pick lettuce, cutting every alternate one in a row to leave others more space to develop.



GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT -

Autumn and winter salads

YOU may now be reaping the rewards of your summer leaves from successional sowings, but there's still time to plant some salads to enjoy later on in the season. Rocket and lamb's lettuce can still be sown in most situations, while winter purslane prefers lighter soil. Sow seeds thinly in drills around 23cm (9in) apart. These leaves don't need to be thinned out. Just cut them as you need them and they will come again. Oriental veg such as Chinese radish, pak choi and mizuna can also be added to the mix or grown as ornamental plants in borders, sowing in rows 30cm (1ft) apart. These can be thinned to 15-30cm (6-12 inches) between plants.

Great British Pea Week

LAUNCHED by the Yes Peas! campaign on behalf of British pea growers and freezers, Great British Pea Week (July 11-17) was the first annual awareness week dedicated to peas, is giving everyone a reason to celebrate peas this harvesting season.



The UK is the largest producer and consumer of frozen peas in Europe and on average, everyone in Britain eats nearly 9,000 peas per year.

This July, approximately 700 pea growers will harvest 2 billion portions of peas to feed Britain for the year.

The harvesting process is a military operation and lasts an average of six to eight weeks. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, harvesting machines,

known as viners, work in unison to harvest shell and transport the peas from field to frozen as quickly as possible – the majority in just 150 minutes.

Versatile and nutritious, frozen peas are a popular freezer essential and the Yes Peas! campaign is asking everyone to get involved this Great British Pea Week and get cooking with peas.

Try this recipe from TV chef and Yes Peas! ambassador, Rachel Green:

Pea, Tuna & White Bean Salad With Lemon Dressing

- Ingredients**
- 400g frozen peas
 - 425g can tuna, drained
 - 1/2 red onion, peeled and finely diced
 - 440g can of cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
 - 3 tbsp roughly chopped flat leaf parsley
 - 2 tbsp capers
 - 1 cucumber, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunky batons
 - 150g spinach leaves, blanched
 - Juice of 2 lemons
 - 2 tbsp olive oil
 - Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to season

Method

Cook the peas in slightly salted boiling water for two minutes and refresh under cold water. Place the peas, tuna, onion, beans, parsley, capers, cucumber and spinach in a bowl and turn gently.

Mix the lemon juice and olive oil together in a bowl and season with sea salt and black pepper. Toss salad in the lemon dressing.



Agapanthus, or African lily, has large circular blue or white flower heads

A must-have for borders with big, bright flowers

BEST OF THE BUNCH

Agapanthus

THE African lily is a must-have perennial for sunny gardens, its large globes of blue or white flowers providing both colour and architectural value in borders and pots.

Some of the brightest and biggest are least hardy, so go to a reputable supplier or specialist nursery who may be able to offer hardier and newer hybrids.

After flowering, the heavy circular seedheads remain and are excellent for cutting and using in dried arrangements indoors. Agapanthus prefer sunny, sheltered spots and in pots they don't like to have too much space. In borders, however, don't let them be crowded in and shaded by other plants and make sure they're not too wet or cold in winter.

Good varieties include Headbourne hybrids, which provide dazzling displays in late summer, or Agapanthus campanulatus, which are best for permanent border planting. Look for the deep blue 'Cobalt Blue' or A. 'Polar Ice', one of the best white forms.

Pelargoniums

THESE are among the most drought-tolerant of summer bedding plants, adding colour and texture to containers and at the front of borders.

They used to be known as geraniums as their seed capsules are similar to those of our native hardy geraniums, but the name still sticks.

There are more than 200 species, but the most common are zonal pelargoniums, the ones with leaves like opened fans.

There are also 'uniques', which bear masses of small flowers and scented foliage, while regal pelargoniums are among the earliest to flower and many produce rich colours including deep burgundies and plums.

Ivy-leaved types are trailing, so ideal for hanging baskets and containers. The beauty about these plants is that they hardly need watering - in fact most problems occur through over-watering - and if its roots become constricted in the pot it should flower profusely. Good varieties include 'Voodoo', a unique variety with wine red flowers with black centres, and 'Attar of Roses', a light pink type valued for its rose-scented foliage.

Off on holiday? Don't let garden go to pot

By Hannah Stephenson

GOING on holiday this summer? Don't let your garden go to pot in your absence. This week we're giving top tips on how to make sure it still looks good after two weeks away

If you're away for a fortnight in the summer holidays and don't want to return to bedraggled borders, dried-out pots and a lawn which looks like straw, take action now.

BEFORE YOU GO

Weed, mow and water. Make sure beds and borders are tidy, weeded and well watered. Deadhead and cut back perennials which have finished flowering. If you have annuals in borders, deadhead them and even pick off emerging flowers to conserve the plants' energy for when you return. They may reward you with fresh blooms which come through in your absence. Mow the lawn, leaving the clippings on it which will help conserve moisture should it be really dry when you're away. Give containers and baskets a really good water and feed before you leave.

WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Family, friends and neighbours: Call on kindly neighbours, friends or family who live nearby to maintain your garden in your absence. Leave clear instructions about watering and deadheading, and get them to harvest any ripening fruit and veg from your allotment or vegetable patch for their own use. That way it won't go to seed. They could even freeze what they don't use.

Automatic watering: There are many automatic irrigation systems on the market which can be timed to go on and off as you wish. More sophisticated models are activated depending on the dryness of the soil while others, such as Hozelock's Cloud Controller, this year's RHS Chelsea Garden Product of the Year, can be operated from your mobile phone.

Shade pots: If you have a collection of patio pots, give them a really good soaking just before you go away and put them all together in a sheltered, shady spot which is open to the elements (including rain). Clustering them should help conserve moisture, reduce evaporation and make it easier for friends or neighbours to water. Stand the pots in saucers or trays which act as a reservoir and hold some of the excess water as it drains.

Hanging baskets: These can need watering twice a day in the height of summer and if you don't have a neighbour to do it, you'll have your work cut out to keep them looking good. Take down the basket and dig a depression in the soil in a shady border that you can sink the basket in. Water and feed the basket, ensuring the soil underneath is thoroughly soaked too and give your basket plants a good trim before you go.

Other watering solutions: If you don't have an automatic watering system or a neighbour to take care of your patio pots, create your own self-watering system by placing a bucket of water on bricks



Make sure you mow the lawn before going on holiday and leave the clippings on it to help retain moisture



If neighbours are helping, leave clear instructions for watering



Deadhead your flowers before you go away

and surrounding it with your pots, which should be at a lower level than the bucket. Cut out strips of capillary matting (available from garden centres and DIY stores) to create a wick for each pot, placing one end of the matting in the bucket and training it

down and inserting the other end into the compost, which should keep it moist when you're away.

Drought-tolerant plants: There are plenty of colourful plants which will survive your two-week absence. Geraniums,

cosmos, escholzia (Californian poppy), gazania, osteospermum and nicotiana should all be okay.

A wider list of drought-tolerant plants is available from the Royal Horticultural Society at www.rhs.org.uk

fast the ticket



Miller time

Tommy Steeles show
Page 23

Glitz on stage
Page 23



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See wolvescivic.co.uk

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Call 01922 451002

ROCK & METAL

The Nightingales
Tonight at 7pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Hair Rock Experience
Tonight at 7pm,
The Roadhouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Stone Broken
Tomorrow at 6.45pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Don Broco
Sun at 7pm, Mon at 7pm,
£15
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Smiths Tribute 'These Smiths', Joy Division Tribute
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The Beautiful Sound: The Beautiful South Tribute
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See hareandhoundskingsheath.skid-netickets.com/

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Palestine Youth Orchestra
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The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

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West Bromwich Town Hall,
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Tonight - tomorrow at 9pm - 3am,
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Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
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Tomorrow at 8pm, £15.50
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Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

The Noise Next Door Noise In The Hood
Tomorrow at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
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OTHER EVENTS

Playful Penguins: Penguin Ice Adventure
Tomorrow at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm, Sun at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Food Markets
Sun at 10.30am,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Summer Holiday Family Fun
Tomorrow - Thu,
Cadbury World, Bourneville,
Birmingham, B30 2LU.
Call 0844 880 7667

Crazy Clownfish: Talk
Tomorrow at 10.45am, Tue at 10.45am, Wed at 10.45am,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
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The Hollywood Special Effects Show
Tue at 6pm, Wed at 2pm, 7pm,
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Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Out'Ray'geous Rays: Talk
Tomorrow at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
Sun at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
Mon at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Tue at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Wed at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Thu at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
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Oceanic Adventures: Ocean Tunnel
Tomorrow at 12pm, 4.30pm,
Sun at 12pm, 2pm, Mon at 2pm, 4.30pm, Tue at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm, Wed at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm, Thu at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm,
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OurShakespeare In The Park
Mon at 10am, Tue at 10am, Wed at 10am, Thu at 10am,
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Insane Championship Wrestling: Seven Nation Army
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Artforum
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Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
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Call 01902 552055

Young Artists
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Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
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Kings Heath Food Assembly
Tue at 7.30pm - 9pm,
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GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

Land, Sea And Air
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
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WS2 8LG.
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Lucy Howard
Mon at 9.30am - 4pm, 6.30pm - 9pm, Tue at 9.30am - 4pm, 6.30pm - 9pm,
Festival Drayton Centre,
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
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Kan Xuan
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
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Jesse Bruton
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Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

All The World's A Stage
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Inspire 16: The Young Creatives Of Birmingham
Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Mr Eazi



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The Nigeria-born, Ghana-based rising star of the afro beat music scene brings hits laid-back hit-making Banku sound to Brum.
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A Big Bang: The Origins Of The Pop Art Collection Part 2
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Tales Of The City
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Craft Goes Pop
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

The Lanchester Grand Circus
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Bantock House,
Wolverhampton,
WV3 9LQ.
Call 01902 552195

Curious Beauty
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Turning To See: From Van Dyck To Lucian Freud
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Laura Oldfield Ford: Chthonic Reverber
Wed at 12pm - 5pm, Thu at 12pm - 5pm,
Grand Union, Minerva Works, Birmingham, B5 5RT.
Call 0121 643 9079

Birmingham People And Change In The Inner-City
Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Steele in the mood for big band hero



Tommy Steele, centre, with musicians and actors in *The Glenn Miller Story*, returning to the region Pic: Pamela Raith

TOMMY Steele's portrayal of American big band legend Glenn Miller in a new Bill Kenwright production thrilled fans over the past year, including audiences at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

So the show is enjoying an extended run that will take it through to the end of 2016 and it will feature at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from August 23 until 27. The show features a 16-piece swing orchestra as well as singers, dancers and actors telling the story of one the 20th century's most iconic musicians.

For the past 15 or so years theatre mogul Bill Kenwright and his idol Tommy Steele have had supper two or three times every year. They have spoken about the past – mainly Tommy's past – as Bill can never have enough of Tommy's stories about rock 'n' roll's golden era.

It was when discussing a particular favourite of theirs; the James Stewart box office smash *The Glenn Miller Story*, that Bill discovered that his all-encompassing love for Elvis was equal only to Tommy's adoration for Glenn Miller and his Orchestra.

Steele said: "I remember he (Miller) was on around our house all the time on the radio during the Second World War. I actually saw him when I was eight at the Albert Hall.

"My dad came home one night and told mum that he had tickets to see Glenn Miller. She was doing cartwheels, thinking she'd died and gone to heaven.

"It was the time of wartime austerity, and that wonderful sound, it's the kind of thing stays with you for the rest of your life. I've been a fan ever since."



'Bunch of nuns with saxophones darling'

It's going to be a-mazing

FOR the last 12 years, every Saturday night between September and Christmas has been laced with venomous comments courtesy of acid-tongued judge Craig Revel Horwood on flagship BBC TV show, *Strictly Come Dancing*.

His remarks, including 'a dancing disaster darling', 'spatula hands' and the wielding of his paddle with the number two on it have become legendary, yet he is the judge all the celebrities long to please. To get a nine, or if you are really, really lucky, a 10 from Craig, is the stuff dreams are made of.

He was recently at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham to talk all things *Sister Act* the Musical, his new venture, starring X Factor winner and Bodyguard star Alexandra Burke (pictured with Craig). The dancer, choreographer, theatre and TV star, Craig's appearance belies his 51 years and his personality couldn't be further from the wicked TV persona. He is warm, welcoming, friendly, witty, handsome and charismatic; not at all the waspish caricature.

Craig, who in recent years brought revivals of *Chess* and *Fiddler On The Roof* out on tour, explained: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to reinvent *Sister Act* and it is going to be a more stylised production than any of my other shows."

"All the actors play the music as well, and they are all of a brilliant standard. It is alarming when you first see a whole bunch of nuns with saxophones darling," he laughed. "Then it becomes wonderful!"

Sister Act the Musical is at the Alex September 12 to 17 then Wolverhampton Grand, February 27 to March 4, 2017.

Absolute fabulous reissue of musical

WITH a star turn and a theme song by David Bowie, 1980s musical *Absolute Beginners* is out on Blu-ray and DVD to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

With hindsight, the colourful tribute to 1950s London looks oddly innocent in its depiction of Soho. Director Julien Temple gets maximum value from Patsy Kensit and Eddie O'Connell as the couple present at the birth of British youth culture.

Look out for Lionel Blair, Sandie Shaw, Ray Davies and even Bruno Tonioli in cameo roles. The joyful song and dance numbers make up for acting flaws and the film gets a high definition revamp for Blu-ray.

Typically tropical weekend in Brum

REGGAE music, dance, fashion and typically tropical dishes will feature at the Birmingham Caribbean Festival in Centenary Square from Friday to Sunday.

The five-year-old celebration of Caribbean culture, arts, food and drink is being held from 11am to 9pm daily, and entry is by donation.

Entertainment will include the Reggae Reggae Sauce man Levi Roots (Saturday), Bob Marley tribute band Legend Live, Gabbidon from Steel Pulse, poet Ita Gooden (AKA Miss Culture Jam), Jamaican reggae singer Bushman and Dynasty Dancers. For details see birminghamcaribbeanfestival.org website.

Broadway hit has its own peer group

CULT Broadway hit *Urinetown* The Musical is being brought to one of Birmingham's smaller venues.

Set in a not-so-distant future where a water shortage has led to a private bathroom ban, this Tony Award winning satire on capitalism in a fee-to-pee tomorrow will be running for your convenience at The Old Joint Stock pub venue. After opening last night (Thursday) it runs until August 6 including weekend matinees at the popular Temple Row hostelry. See oldjointstock.co.uk for details.

Meanwhile, musical blockbuster *Mamma Mia!* continues at Birmingham Hippodrome.

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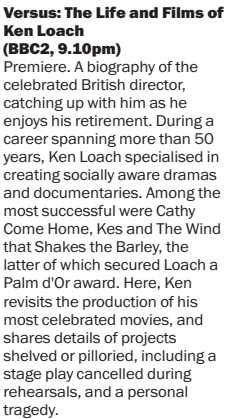
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DIGITAL



6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Home Cooking Made Easy. (R) 12.00 BBC News. Weather. 12.15 (Bargain Hunt). 1.00 Escape to the Country. 1.15 Inspire. The Olympic Journey. With Tom Daley, Dina Asher-Smith and Max Whitlock. 2.00 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Wakefield Trinity (R) 2.30 The 2006-07 Premiership Celebrity Mastermind. (R) 5.05 Now You See It. 5.35 The Getaway Car.

6.25 BBC News.

6.35 Regional Programme.

6.45 Pointless Celebrities. Aled Davies, Tessa Sanderson, David Wilkie, Mary Peters, Jason Gardener, Marlon Devonish, Tanni Grey-Thompson and Sir Chris Chubb take part in an Olympics-themed edition of the quiz.

7.35 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Plus, Sonali Shah introduces the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws, and meets the "team behind the team" helping British athletes prepare for the 2016 Olympic Games.

8.30 The Musketeers. Death strikes at the Louvre, and Treville whisks away the vulnerable young Duchapain to protect him from the machinations of Grimaud, Gaston and the Duke of Lorraine. Continues on Monday at 9pm.

9.25 Casualty. Grace discovers the truth about Connie and Jacob and while accompanying a friend to A&E, and Robyn's ex Glen reveals he has been hiding a devastating secret. Last in the series.

10.15 BBC News. Weather. National Lottery Update.

10.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. A hypnotist provides the entertainment at the triplets' baptism – and Agnes soon finds herself under his spell. Meanwhile, Mark delivers some cracking news. (R)

11.05 Live at the Apollo. (R)

11.50 Film: Reign of Fire. (R) Fantasy adventure.

1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.30 BBC News.

7.40 The Women's Football Show. (R)
7.10 Film: City Beneath the Sea. (1970)
8.40 Film: Hotel for Dogs. (2009) **10.10**
Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10**
Nature World – Snow Monkeys. (R)
12.00 The Hair Bikers' Northern
Exposure. (R) **1.00 Floog It!** (R) **2.00 Golf:**
Women's British Open.
6.00 Cycling: RideLondon Classique.
Jill Douglas presents live coverage
of the RideLondon Classique, a
newly created UK Women's
WorldTour race, as 20 teams battle
it out on a 5.5 km circuit on the
streets of London.
7.00 Poms Extra. Katie Derm
Reviews Tippet's A Child of Our
Time and The Willows of
11.40 **Crucial Moments.** Peter David Owen
Norris hits another Chord of the
Week.
7.40 Gardeners' World. Monty Don
gets to grips with summer pruning
as he tackles his espaliered pear
tree. Joe Swift and the Gardeners'
ways of putting a contemporary
twist on traditional bedding plants.
(R)
8.10 Grand Tours of Scotland. Paul
Morton visits places connected to
Robert Burns, travelling from
Inveraray to Mauchline, from
headland for the coast and
discovering the delights of
Butlin's, bathing and betting.
8.40 Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea's
power and communications
services are cut off, but Captain
Mainwaring rises to the occasion
by declaring martial law. Starring
Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. (R)
**9.10 Film: Versus: The Life and Films
of Ken Loach.** (2016) Premiere.
The celebrated director shares
stories about the making of his
most successful films, and details
of shelved projects – including one
hit by a personal tragedy.
10.40 Versailles. While Louis proposes
an audacious alliance with
England, along with an unexpected
envoy to negotiate it, Beatrice
feels the secrets of France revealed.
(R) Inside Versailles.
11.40 Film: Sweet Sixteen. (2002) A
boy resorts to all manner of
schemes to rescue his mother
from a life of danger on the streets
of a Scottish coastal town. Drama,
starred Martin Compston and
Annmarie Fulton.
1.25 Film: Love Like Poison. (2010)
2.45 This Is BBC Two.

10.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Soggy. (R) 7.05 Soggy. (R) 7.35 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 8.00 Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder. She Wrote. (R) 10.20 Murder. She Wrote. (R) 11.20 Who's the Boss? (R) 12.20 ITV News. Weather. 12.35 The Late Show. 1.40 Wild Animal Reunions. (R) 2.40 Doc Martin. (R) 3.40 Planet's Got Talent. (R) 4.10 Britain's Favorite People. (R) 5.10 The Chase. (R)

6.15 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.25 ITV News. Weather.

6.45 You've Been Framed! Gail. Harry Hill and his mischievous team of pranksters, including a builder falling through a ceiling, and a lorry driver's unfortunate encounter with a lamp-post. (R)

7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which contestants have to guess words from familiar phrases hidden in the animal clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Tom Daley: Diving for Gold. A profile of the diver, providing an insight into his sporting, public and personal life. Documentary looks at his decision to reveal his relationship with fiance Dustin Lance Black in 2013, his change of coaches and the gamble of learning a new routine for the Olympic Games in Rio.

9.00 1966: A Nation Remembers. Terence Stamp narrates the story of the English football team's World Cup triumph through the eyes of those who attended matches at the tournament. Among those to recount their memories are Irish students who operated the Wembley Stadium scoreboard, and a policeman who was told to swap the Jules Rimet Trophy for a replica in the victorious team's changing room.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.15 Film: Crank. (2006) An assassin is poisoned and resorts to desperate measures to keep himself alive long enough to exact a fitting revenge. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Amy Smart.

11.55 River Monsters. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

7.00 Swansea Triathlon: 7.35 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge: 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond: (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond: (R) 9.00 The Morning Show: 10.00 Car SOS: 10.30 The Superhumans Show: 11.30 The Big Bang Theory: (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory: (R) 12.25 Come Dine with Me: (R) 1.30 Glorious Goodwood: Channel 4. 1.40 The Big Bang Theory: (R) 2.00 Newmarket: 4.15 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. 5.20 Channel 4 News. 5.45 Formula 1 2016 German Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

7.30 Britain's Favourite Superhero. Doctor Who making an extensive use of interviews and clips from big-budget Hollywood blockbusters to explore the story of how superheroes – on pages exclusively found on the once of comic books – found their way to the silver screen, becoming bankable cinematic icons in the process. A Channel 4 poll outlines which do-gooders the British public have taken to their hearts, and the programme charts the history of big-screen heroics from the release of the ground-breaking Superman: The Movie in 1978 through to the high-profile revival of living superheroes this year. Films releasing this year. Along the way, viewers are given a chance to revisit Tim Burton's noir-themed iteration of Batman in the 1990s, the animated antics of Spider-Man and Spider-Man in the early noughties, and the far-reaching storylines of Marvel's inter-connected Avengers films. All this culminates as the poll reveals which of the heroes have captured British imaginations to become the nation's favourites.

9.00 Film: Iron Man 2. (2010) Tycoon-turned-superhero Tony Stark confronts a fearsome new foe in a sequel as a scientist who has been nearly his chest weapon to seek revenge. He also faces a struggle to keep his secrets out of the hands of both the government and an amoral rival, and discovers the art of the developer. The fight evil is slowly killing him. Action adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

11.30 Film: Terminator Salvation. (2009) Sci-Fi thriller sequel, with Christian Bale.

1.40 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) 2.30 Holyoaks: (R) 4.30 Double Your House for Half the Money.

9.00 Milkshake! & 25 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.00** Funniest Fails. Fails & Flips. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.20** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy get into a doorstep confrontation with a debtor who wants to prove her family business is bankrupt. However, when the debtor's flare Brian is assaulted and the agents call the police. Elsewhere, Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner face evicting three properties owned by the same family in north London and Brian and Delroy Anglin collect £20,000 debt owed to a vet in Kent. (R)

7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. A taxi driver is murdered just hours after sending an email to an old friend. Callen used to think he went undercover to investigate three marines who stole \$5million. (R)

8.00 NCIS. Ned Dorngett's CIA officer mother Joanna Teague helps the team tackle the calling of a crime family's death. How can the drama's guest starring Mimi Rogers. Last in the series. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the new housemates' first full day in the Big Brother house. The housemates may be under a staring door but a lens as part of their working lives, but Big Brother's 24-hour spy-like devices are not the TV, movie and paparazzi cameras they are used to facing. It remains to be seen who is playing up for the benefit of the viewing public and who is taking a more laid-back approach to their public incarceration. (R)

10.00 The Funny Thing About Holidays. Johnny Vegas is joined by a series of celebrity comedians, who share some of their most memorable tales as they explore the many pitfalls of the traditional summer holidays. (R)

11.05 Family Feud – My Big Family Feud. **11.30** SuperSasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.55** Divine Designs. (R)

BBFC Four
7.00 *Rock Bannister*: Everest on the
 Track **8.00** *Tutankhamun*: The Truth
 Uncovered **9.00** *Back*: The Silent Scream
 II **10.25** *Baggage*: The Journey to Divine
 Light **11.00** *Spills*: Milligau, Love, Light
 and Peace **1.10** *The Kinks at the BBC*
2.15 *Cilla at the BBC* **3.15** *Top of the*
Pops: 1982 to 2003 **Close**

ITV2
1.15 *Funnist Ever* You've Been
Framed! **Gold** **12.30** *Ninja Warrior UK*
1.00 *Batteries Not Included* (1987)
2.30 *FYI Daily* **2.35** *Film*: *Barriers Not*
Included (1987) **3.35** *Film*: *Bill & Ted's*
Excellent Adventure (1989) **4.35** *FYI*
Daily **4.40** *Film*: *Bill & Ted's Excellent*
Adventure (1989) **5.25** *Film*: *King Kong*
1968 (2005) **6.00** *Film*: *King Kong*
2005 (2005) **9.00** *Film*: *The Dark Knight*
(2008) **10.00** *FYI Daily* **10.05** *Film*:
The Dark Knight (2008) **12.00** *Family Guy*
1.30 *American Dad!* **2.25** *The Cleveland*
Shows **2.50** *Teleshopping* **5.50** *ITV2*
Nightscreen

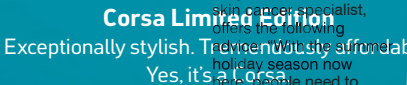
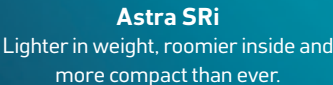
ITV3
12.45 *Film*: *Blue Murder at St Trinian's*
1.45 *FYI Daily* **1.50** *Film*: *The*
Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **2.35** *Jane*
Eyre **4.55** *Midsomer Murders* **7.00** *Doc*
Martin **8.00** *Lewis* **10.00** *Foyle's War*
12.00 *Inspector Morse* **2.05** *ITV3*
Nightscreen **2.30** *Teleshopping*

ITV4
11.30 *Pawn Stars* **2.05** *British Superbike*
Championship Highlights **3.05** *Film*:
The Land That Time Forgot (1975) **4.15** *FYI*
Daily **4.20** *Film*: *The Land That Time*
Forgot (1975) **5.00** *Monster Car* **6.00**
Top Gear **7.00** *The Show Show* **7.00** *The Hand of*
God: **30 Years On** **8.00** *Film*: *Open Range*
(2003) **9.15** *FYI Daily* **9.20** *Film*: *Open*
Range (2003) **10.50** *Film*: *Unforgiven*
(1992) **11.50** *FYI Daily* **11.55** *Film*:
Unforgiven (1992) **1.25** *Minder* **2.15** *AX*
10.00 *Teleshopping*

E4
12.10 *Rich Kids of Instagram* **1.00** *New*
Girl **1.30** *The Goldbergs* **3.30** *Brooklyn*
Nine-Nine **3.40** *Film*: *Gulliver's Travels*
(2010) **6.10** *Rude* (ish) *Tube Shorts* **6.30**
The Big Bang Theory **7.00** *Film*: *Rush*
Hour (2000) **8.00** *Gogglebox* **12.55**
Rude Tube **2.00** *First Dates* **2.55**
Gogglebox **3.50** *2 Broke Girls*
Rude (ish) **4.20** *5.00* *Revenge*

Film4
11.00 *Captain Ron* (1992) **1.00** *Sister Act*
1.32 *3,651 Days of a Wimpy Kid*
Rodrick Rules (2011) **5.05** *Napoleon*
Dynasties (2004) **6.55** *Tower Heist*
11.00 *Predator* (1987) **11.10**
Bundy (1996) **1.25** *Allen* (1979)

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Shine on – left, always apply sun lotion, and inset, Mr Darren Lewis

to 15 minutes a day from May to September and avoid excessive sunbathing and sunbeds. In the UK, more than 50 people die from skin cancer each year, while working outside in construction, agriculture and leisure industries. We want people to enjoy the warmer weather but stay safe, especially when on holiday and take extra precautions if you have a fair complexion. Finally as we age, our skin becomes naturally drier and so we need to moisturise more and do this regularly."

For the opportunity to meet
colleague Mr Najim Moimen,
a being held with these consultant
field Health Wolverhampton
September 19 and October 12.

Mr Darren Lewis and his colleague Mr Naim Moimen, free mini consultations are being held with these consultant plastic surgeons at the Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital, on August 8, September 19 and October 12.

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CHOICE



Flying to the Ends of the Earth (Channel 4, 8pm)
New series. Arthur Williams visits more of the world's smallest and most dangerous landing strips, beginning by exploring Siberia by helicopter. He visits a giant open-cast diamond mine five times deeper than the cliffs of Dover and a scientific expedition at the coldest place on Earth. However, when one of the helicopters crashes in thick snow, the crew are forced to abandon flying in favour of a six-hour drive along treacherous ice roads. Along the way, they meet a couple living off the grid who breed horses.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 BBC News. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Flog It! (R) 1.55 Eat Well for Less? (R) 2.55 Songs of Praise. 3.30 Cycling: RideLondon-Surrey Classic. Live coverage of the race.
6.35 BBC News.
6.55 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker travels along the South Wales coastline and goes in search of the best cuts of meat for a beach barbecue, while Naomi Wilkinson goes punting on the river Cam and joins a member of the Wildlife Trust looking for bats. John Craven reports on the summer bulrush harvest in Suffolk, Sean Fletcher goes cycling in Pembrokeshire, and Adam Henson meets a farmer in Northern Ireland with a special way of keeping his cattle cool.
8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate a sketch of a dancer, which is believed to be the work of sculptor Auguste Rodin, and part of a series of drawings he made of a Cambodian dance troupe in 1906. The search for the truth takes them to Paris and Mexico and uncovers a forgery scandal that has rocked the French art establishment.
9.00 The Secret Agent. The three-part adaptation of Joseph Conrad's novel comes to a conclusion. The authorities are plunged into confusion in the aftermath of the Greenwich bombing, unable to make sense of the motives behind the attack. Inspector Heat takes step to have Verloc arrested, while Winnie is devastated to learn the truth about her husband's activities and turns to Ossipon for support. They go on the run together, but it is not long before the police are hot on their trail. Starring Toby Jones, Stephen Graham and Vicky McClure. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Imagine – Sir Roderick Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now. In an interview conducted at his LA home, the singer talks to Alan Yentob about his long career.
11.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.00 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) 7.00 Great British Garden Revival. (R) 8.00 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.30 Countryfile. (R) 9.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.00 Cycling: RideLondon-Surrey 100. 11.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) 12.30 Lorraine Pascal: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) 1.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking. (R) 1.05 Winners with Denise Lewis. 1.30 Clare Balding Meets. 2.00 Golf: Women's British Open. Day four of the Major.
6.40 Film: G-Force. (2009) A team of secret-agent guinea pigs armed with hi-tech gadgets is sent on a mission to stop an evil billionaire taking over the world. However, before the rodents can complete their mission, they end up on sale in a pet shop. Children's adventure, starring Bill Nighy, with the voices of Sam Rockwell, Nicolas Cage and Penelope Cruz.
8.00 Robot Wars. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present another round of battles in the arena. An untested robot built by a cardiologist and his two sons makes a surprising impact in the arena, while a builder from Northampton wheels out an impressive looking axe-wielding robot. Plus, judge Sethu Vijayakumar discusses his work with Nasa, designing robots to explore Mars.
9.00 Dragons' Den. Evan Davis presents the business ideas contest, as regular panelists Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Sarah Willingham, Touker Suleyman and Nick Jenkins consider the profit-making potential of wearable maps, interference-free guitar cables and keys for manhole covers. However, this last scheme comes from an entrepreneur who has previously come to the edge of bankruptcy.
10.00 World Cup 1966: Alfie's Boys. David Jason presents a documentary about how Alf Ramsey put together the England football team that won the world cup in 1966. Featuring archive footage of the team. (R)
11.30 Film: Buried. (2010) A man buried alive in the Iraqi desert tries to organise a rescue before he runs out of air – but even he does not know where he is. Thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds.
1.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 1.55 Hobbit City. (R) 2.55 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 8.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.35 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 8.00 Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 Judge Rinder. (R) 12.20 ITV News; Weather. 12.30 Rebound. (R) 1.30 Long Lost Family. (R) 2.30 Love Your Garden. (R) 3.35 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.30 Masterpiece with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) 6.30 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Choreographer Arlene Phillips, TV garden designer Diarmuid Gavin, Countryfile presenter Helen Skelton and comedian Mickey Flanagan compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by pitting their general knowledge against one of the show's resident trivia experts. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)
8.00 Film: Skyfall. (2012) James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and exposed the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes.
10.45 ITV News; Weather.
11.00 Premiership Rugby 7s Highlights. Action from the group matches, held at the Arms Park, Sandy Park, Franklin's Gardens and Kingston Park, and featured all 12 English top-flight clubs and four Welsh franchises.
12.00 River Monsters. Reports of a face-eating creature in a remote part of Bolivia. Last in the series. (R) 12.25 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.00 Motorsport UK: Action from Croft. 3.50 British Superbike Championship Highlights. Both races from Thruxton in Hampshire. 4.45 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Shipping Wars. (R) 6.40 Shipping Wars. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 The King of Queens. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Film: A Goochy Movie. (1995) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Farmer. 2.00 Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito. 3.40 Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help prospective buyers in Cardiff, including Jo and Steve, who are relocating from Bristol to cut down on Jo's commute to work. (R) 4.45 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Laura Hamilton offers advice to Dee and Maurice Evans, who have a budget of £200,000 to buy a holiday home close to the theme parks in South Orlando, Florida. 5.45 Channel 4 News.
6.00 Formula 1 2016 German Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents the best of the action from the 12th round of the season, which was held at the Hockenheimring.
8.00 Flying to the Ends of the Earth. New series. Arthur Williams explores Siberia by helicopter, but when one of the aircraft crashes in deep snow, the crew is faced with a six-hour drive along treacherous ice roads.
9.00 Film: The Imitation Game. (2014) Premiere. Biopic of mathematician Alan Turing, whose work during the Second World War translated seemingly unbreakable Nazi codes as well as pioneering the development of computer technology. In the years following the war, his life would be destroyed as his homosexuality was discovered, leaving him facing criminal charges. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley and Charles Dance.
11.10 Friday Night Dinner. Dad's annual hinge oiling evening arrives, but when he spills his oil on Mum's carpet, it's a race against time to clean it up before she finds out. Simon Bird stars. (R)
11.45 Film: Date Night. (2010) A married couple's romantic evening takes a dangerous turn when a case of mistaken identity sees them on the run from gangsters. Comedy, starring Tina Fey.
1.20 The World's Weirdest Weather. (R) 2.15 Walking the Himalayas. (R) 3.10 Cleopatra's Lost Tomb. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.40 Zack and Quack. (R) 6.55 Pets. (R) 7.00 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.10 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.25 Little Princess. (R) 7.40 Pip Ahoy! (R) 7.55 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.20 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.40 Shimmer and Shine. 9.05 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.25 LazyTown. (R) 9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.25 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.55 Film: Beverly Hills Ninja. (1997) 12.35 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.30 Film: Zookeeper. (2011) Comedy, starring Kevin James. 3.20 Film: The Parent Trap. (1998) Comedy remake, starring Lindsay Lohan. 6.00 Film: Bruce Almighty. (2003) God tires of a down-on-his-luck reporter's constant complaining, so passes on His powers to give him a taste of ultimate responsibility. The newsman falls in love with his extraordinary abilities – but a never-ending stream of incoming prayers and his ambitious attempt to please everyone soon prove there is more to the job than meets the eye. Comedy, starring Jim Carrey, Jennifer Aniston and Morgan Freeman. Edited for language and sexual content.

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2016: Berlioz Romeo and Juliet **9.00 Generation '66** **10.00** Cathy Come Home **11.20** Rich Hall's Inventing the Indians **12.50** Yellowstone **1.50** Burma, My Father and the Forgotten Army **2.50** Generation '66 **3.50** Close **ITV2**
11.50 Take Me Out **1.00** Funnist Ever You've Been Framed! **Gold 2.00** **Film:** Stormbreaker (2006) **3.05** **FYI Daily** **3.10** **Film:** Stormbreaker (2006) **3.55** **Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **4.55** **FYI Daily** **5.00** **Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **5.55** **Film:** Yogi Berra (2010) **6.55** **FYI Daily** **7.00** **Film:** Yogi Berra (2010) **7.30** **Film:** Twilight (2008) **8.30** **FYI Daily** **8.35** **Film:** Twilight (2008) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** Bordertown **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** **ITV2** **Nightscreen**
ITV3
11.40 A Touch of Frost **1.55** Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **3.50** **Film:** The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) **4.50** **FYI Daily** **4.55** **Film:** The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) **5.55** **Doc** Martin **8.00** The Boozie Cruise 2: The Treasure Hunt **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Wire in the Blood **2.50** May the Best House Win **4.35** On the Buses **5.25** Movies Now **5.35** **ITV3** **Nightscreen**
ITV4
6.00 Pawn Stars **8.00** Premiership Rugby 7s Highlights **9.00** 1966: A Nation Remembers **10.00** **Film:** Tremors (1989) **11.00** **FYI Daily** **11.05** **Film:** Tremors (1989) **12.05** **Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.05** **FYI Daily** **1.10** **Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **2.10** Hell on Wheels **2.50** **ITV4** **Nightscreen** **3.00** Teleshopping
5.45
12.30 Coach Trip: Road to Ibiza **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** **Film:** The Golden Compass (2007) **6.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.00** Rich Kids of Instagram **12.00** Gogglebox **1.05** Containment **2.10** Rude Tube **3.05** Rude(ish) Tube **3.30** Holyoaks
Film4
11.00 The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **1.00** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **2.50** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **4.45** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **7.15** Jingle All the Way (1996) **9.00** Escape Plan (2013) Prison thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.15** Law Abiding Citizen (2009) **1.25** Family Business (1989) **3.45** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Secrets In the Attic, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A teenage girl moves into an old house that her mother has inherited and discovers a youth in the attic, where he has been hiding out for months. She then finds out that he has been accused of murder and has to decide whether he can be trusted. Thriller, starring Abbie Cobb and Max Lloyd-Jones. (2016)

TUESDAY

Blades of Glory, BBC1, 11.30pm

Rival figure skaters bury the hatchet after they discover a loophole enabling them to compete in the world championships as a same-sex pair. Comedy, with Will Ferrell and Jon Heder. (2007)

WEDNESDAY

In the Electric Mist, BBC1, 11.15pm

A recovering alcoholic detective investigates the discovery of a body in a swamp, where he witnessed a murder as a boy. As he sets out to prove a local gangster is involved in a more recent killing, he begins having visions of ghostly Confederate soldiers. Mystery based on James Lee Burke's novel, starring Tommy Lee Jones and John Goodman. (2009)



Public Enemies, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY

The Devil's Teardrop, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A serial killer terrorises Washington DC, with a ransom note the only clue to his identity. A handwriting analyst agrees to help the FBI with their investigation, but also has to deal with fighting his ex-wife for custody of their children. Crime drama, starring Tom Everett Scott and Natasha Henstridge. (2010)

FRIDAY

Public Enemies, ITV, 10.40pm

Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)

Clare gives a preview as the games commence

There's no doubt that the Olympic Games are the world's biggest sporting event.

In Rio this year will be more than 10,500 competitors from 207 nations, and there will be thousands more team officials, media representatives, security personnel and volunteers flocking to the city.

And that's before we even mention the spectators...

Many will have applied for tickets, but millions more will watch at home – a global audience of around two billion is expected to tune in.

Four years ago, it was estimated that 90 per cent of the British population watched coverage of some kind of the London games, which were a huge success. It's unlikely that the same numbers will be present again – but there are those die-hard sports fans who will still be keen to follow British athletes as they take to the road, track, field or pool.

Unfortunately, the build-up to Rio has been somewhat marred by various controversies, including host nation Brazil's political instability and

economic crisis, security concerns, sanitation and, of course, Zika. The virus has already prompted several sportspeople to pull out, including tennis stars Milos Raonic (who was runner-up at this year's Wimbledon to Andy Murray) and Tomas Berdych, golfers Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson, and cyclist Tejay van Garderen.

Nevertheless, British fans are expecting big things from their team, particularly after the heroics displayed four years ago.

"London 2012 saw the likes of Jessica Ennis, Mo Farah, Greg Rutherford, Nicola Adams and the Brownlee brothers become household names, as the nation took them to their hearts following their monumental sporting success on home turf", says one of the BBC's key presenters, Clare Balding, whose own star rose after her acclaimed appearances at the Games.

"All eyes will be on them again this summer, while track cyclist Laura Trott and dressage star Charlotte Dujardin are vying to become the most decorated British female Olympians in history."

But she's also quick to point out that potential gold medal-winners such as swimmer Adam Peaty, boxer Joe Joyce, diver Jack Laugher and athletes Dina Asher-Smith and Katarina Johnson-Thompson also have the potential to make their mark.

The BBC is certainly throwing its weight behind its coverage of Rio. It will broadcast more than 3,000 hours of the games across all BBC platforms, and is launching a new app to help fans catch up with the latest action.

Director of BBC Sport, Barbara Slater, says: "The BBC's coverage of London 2012 was the most watched TV event in UK broadcasting history and we are committed to bringing the same high quality, in-depth coverage to Rio 2016."

"The incredible offering across all our platforms will deliver every moment of the Games through a truly interactive, personalised experience."

Coverage begins tonight as Clare Balding presents a preview, which is followed at 11.40pm by the opening ceremony from the Maracana.



Clare Balding presents Rio 2016, Friday, BBC1, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Brief Encounters

ITV, 9pm

Dawn and Russell's wedding reception at the pub is the scene for a number of confrontations, heart-to-hearts and surprises. Terry storms out after an argument with Steph, while the bride's father Len turns up unannounced but is he there to make amends or cause trouble? Later, Pauline bumps into Johnny and tells him untruths about Steph's feelings for him as she desperately tries to protect herself and Brian. Drama, starring Penelope Wilton, Sophie Rundle, Angela Griffin and Sharon Rooney.

TUESDAY

Borderline

Channel 5, 10pm

Immigration is currently an even more emotive subject than usual, but Channel 5 is here to show us that it can also be a laughing matter with its new series Borderline, a mock-documentary following the UK Border Force. If the premise wasn't risky enough, the channel isn't playing safe with the format either – like its acclaimed drama Suspects, which returns for a new run this week, the basic plot elements of Borderline are scripted, but the cast improvises the dialogue.

WEDNESDAY

Gogglebox: Brexit Special

Channel 4, 9pm

Social media, pubs, workplaces, even some playgrounds – for the past few weeks, they've all hosted impassioned debates about Britain's decision to leave the EU. But while some of us may now know more than we ever wished to about the political beliefs of our friends, families and co-workers, what do the Goggleboxers make of it all? In this special one-off episode, the regular households will comment on everything from Brexit to our new Prime Minister Theresa May (and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson).

A Granny's Guide to the Modern World

Channel 4, 10.35pm

New series. Barry Humphries and a team of senior investigative reporters provide an outsider's perspective of life in 2016, through reports, hidden camera experiments and comedy sketches. The results provide a fresh take on the mechanics of British society and culture, and a comedic look at the modern world's attitude to the country's burgeoning OAP population.

THURSDAY

Mo Farah: Race of His Life

BBC1, 9pm

A profile of the distance-running star, who won gold at both the 5,000m and 10,000m in the 2012 London Olympics. Farah discusses his personal and sporting life, and meets up with his twin brother in the small African country of Djibouti where he spent his early childhood. He also discusses allegations about his coach and demonstrates how hard he pushes himself at training camps in Ethiopia, Arizona and France. With contributions from Usain Bolt and Sebastian Coe.



Mo Farah: Race of His Life, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

The Gift of Hearing

BBC2, 11.05pm

Lauren Laverne narrates the story of Jo Milne, the Tyneside woman who became an internet sensation when a home video of her hearing for the first time after receiving implants surfaced on the web.

FRIDAY

Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year

Channel 4, 8pm

Architect, presenter, lecturer and writer George Clarke's mission to find Britain's 2016 Shed of the Year continues as he and his fellow judges turn their attention to the Eco and Unexpected categories. Eco includes a mud hut in Norfolk and a shed on wheels, while featuring in the new Unexpected category is a shed located on a flood plain designed to rise up with whatever water levels surround it. There is also an allegedly haunted shed, so viewers might wish to make sure they are not alone before tuning in.

Highlands: Scotland's Wild Heart

BBC2, 9pm

New series. The course of the seasons, beginning with spring, which sees the hills on fire on fire as the annual muir-burn takes place in the Cairngorms. As the flames rise, an osprey returns to a valley near Loch Ness, with its movement captured in super slow-motion at 800 frames per second. Red squirrels and roe deer prepare for the breeding season, while a cataclysmic downpour has major consequences for a family of dippers, whose youngsters are forced to fledge early before the nest is swept away. Narrated by Ewan McGregor.

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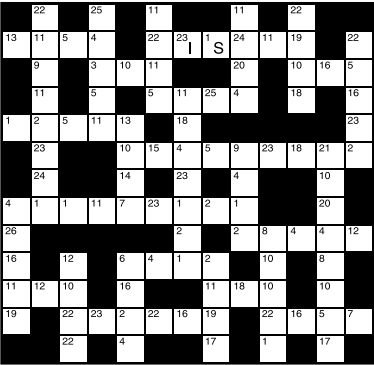
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BRAIN GYM No.388

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

J	M	P	Q	D	S	L	A	T	X	H	W	I
K	C	G	N	Z	V	O	U	B	F	R	E	Y

1	S	14
2	15	
3	16	
4	17	
5	18	
6	19	
7	20	
8	21	
9	22	
10	23	I
11	24	
12	25	
13	26	

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

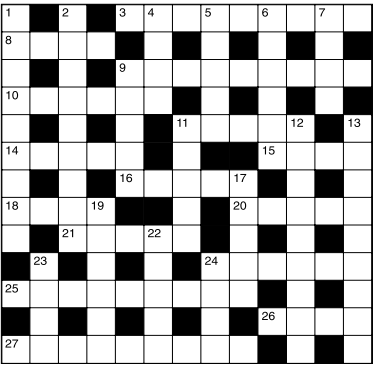
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 3. They're not what they seem in sport, so I'm upset (9)
- 8. Part of an intermediate academic period (4)
- 9 & 16Ac. Appears as the target for the marksman does (5,4,5)
- 10. More insensitive to mathematical quantity (6)
- 11. Entitled me to come in and change (5)
- 14. This will stick cheap jewellery (5)
- 15. When accompanied by fire, this produces methane (4)
- 16. See 9 Across
- 18. Slake boat (4)
- 20. This can be measured to a certain degree (5)
- 21. The whole taken together is coarse (5)
- 24. Affliction coming from hooligans or rowdies (6)
- 25. Declaration of intent is clear and nothing more (9)
- 26. Double commendation on return (4)
- 27. It lists the events for professional lightweight (9)

Down

- 1. Duct underneath spectators' seating is a water outlet (5-4)
- 2. Showing hopeful signs of taking the pledge (9)
- 4. To secure the boat you need space on return (4)
- 5. Ring Margaret and then get a letter (5)
- 6. Closely followed a description of most animals (6)
- 7. Assess the speed (4)
- 9. The sequence, we hear, for a Roman goddess (5)
- 11. Spiced drink for North African potentate (5)
- 12. Ground/sea arrangement can be full of hazards (9)
- 13. Hurry with water supply for wild blue flower (9)
- 17. Thanks to a cry of disapproval, it's not allowed (5)
- 19. Carrying out judicial work is annoying (6)
- 22. Italian city is brown when burnt, we hear! (5)
- 23. Sounds like one fruit, but it's two (4)
- 24. Check the flower-holder (4)



Quick Clues:

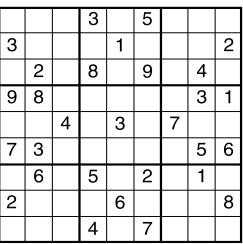
Across

- 3. Competent (9)
- 8. Spike (4)
- 9. Chastise (9)
- 10. Happens (6)
- 11. Dreads (5)
- 14. Stagers (5)
- 15. Resound (4)
- 16. Shatter (5)
- 18. Fashionable (4)
- 20. Fruit (5)
- 21. List (5)
- 24. Severe (6)
- 25. Unimportant person (9)
- 26. Great (4)
- 27. Persevered (9)

Down

- 1. Wrong (9)
- 2. Disgrace (9)
- 4. Poisonous tree (4)
- 5. Supple (5)
- 6. Shape (6)
- 7. Consumes (4)
- 9. Annoyed (5)
- 11. Fire (5)
- 12. Doubting (9)
- 13. Anticipate (9)
- 17. Rash (5)
- 19. Fondle (6)
- 22. Water-lily (5)
- 23. Centre (4)
- 24. Inflamed eyelid (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	9	6	1	3	5	4	2	7
5	2	1	4	7	8	3	6	9
7	3	4	8	2	9	1	5	6
9	1	2	3	4	7	8	5	6
4	6	5	2	8	1	7	3	9
3	7	8	6	5	1	2	9	4
6	5	3	9	1	7	8	2	4
2	4	9	7	8	6	5	3	1
1	8	7	5	2	3	6	4	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Feigned; 7 Unbar; 9 Sty; 10 Preaching; 12 Furthermore; 15 Presumptive; 17 Mismanage; 19 Two; 21 Celia; 22 Waisted. Down: 1 Meats; 2 Ego; 3 Hair; 4 On the move; 5 Banners; 8 Talent; 11 Nursemaid; 13 Taming; 14 Praises; 16 Sweet; 18 Gear; 20 Asp. QUICK - Across: 6 Acquire; 7 Grope; 9 Fit; 10 Rewarding; 12 Calculation; 15 Declaration; 17 Countless; 19 Don; 21 Heart; 22 Cranium. Down: 1 Acid; 2 Run; 3 Free; 4 Erudition; 5 Sponsor; 8 Varlet; 11 Gallantry; 13 Circle; 14 Recover; 16 Vogue; 18 Sure; 20 End.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. Of which Christian group is a Latter-day Saint a member?
- 2. Who is the editor of The Times newspaper?
- 3. To which family of birds does the roadrunner belong?
- 4. Who captained the Australian side in the 2005 Ashes series?
- 5. What is the technical name for nettle rash?
- 6. What is the capital of the Ukraine?
- 7. What type of flower is a michaelmas daisy?
- 8. During which revolution was the Reign of Terror?
- 9. Which animal was once called a foul marten?
- 10. What flavour does the liqueur curacao have?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Celtic; 2 Queen; 3 Edward VIII; 4 H Rider Haggard; 5 Oxygen; 6 Nagasaki; 7 White blood cell or corpuscle; 8 Diego Maradona; 9 Biscayne Bay; 10 Ben Crenshaw. Niner: MAGNITUDE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

254416 gives an implement,
972416 gives a tool,
938 gives a weapon.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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Mako the most of it – the hypercoaster is 200ft high and reaches speeds of 73mph



Eye of the tiger – get close to wildlife



Flipping fantastic – swim with dolphins at Discovery Cove



Soaring up into the skyline, the half-a-mile long blue rails

Getting hyper over the sheer size and height of these rollercoasters

EVERYTHING is bigger in America. From the huge family Jeeps on the roads to the humongous portion sizes in restaurants not to mention the massive out-of-town shopping malls.

So, it's no surprise that the same goes for the country's rollercoasters, much to the delight of thrillseekers.

Except they aren't just the best coasters in the world, some are also the biggest, known as hypercoasters. The definition of a hypercoaster is any rollercoaster with a height or drop of more than 200ft.

The latest hypercoaster to be built in The States is Mako, named after the species of shark, at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida. Myself, along with a group of 15 hardened coaster riders from the UK and Ireland, ventured across the Atlantic to check out

Orlando – by Alex Ross

the new ride. Mako opened last month and is just one of many rides at SeaWorld. It's huge. Soaring up into the skyline, the half-a-mile long blue rails can be seen on the approach. And the screams can heard from a distance too.

I got a sneaky first ride on it, but nothing could have prepared me for this. Scaling up 200ft, before plummeting and reaching speeds of 73mph, it was exhilarating from start to finish. The only disappointment was my inability to keep my cool.

A video, later kindly circulated online, showed me screaming like a six-year-old girl, not a 32-year-old man. Not great for my street cred.

If you're not a fan of rollercoasters, there are lots of other less daring things to do. Whether it be killer whale displays or visit-

ing a penguin's home you can keep your feet firmly on the ground. And for those wanting a break from the action, there are plenty of cafés and bars where you can refuel.

During our stay we were based at the Hilton in Orlando, just a stone's throw from most of the city's attractions, shopping malls and restaurants.

Picturesque

Orlando is the country's most popular tourist destination with its theme parks drawing in visitors from both home and abroad. But in contrast to the screams and roars from the roller coasters, the state is quite green and picturesque.

Its wealth of attractions means it's a great family destination with so much to do to keep both children and adults entertained day and night. And when it comes to food, you'll be spoilt for choice.

The next theme park we went to took us much closer to nature. At Discovery Cove you can swim with dolphins or snorkel in water filled with tropical fish.

For me, swimming with the dolphins was a highlight. Watching them from boats or on television, I've always been fascinated but it was something else to touch them and be carried by them across the waves.

The next day we took the bus to Tampa Bay and Busch Gardens. We were too early for the opening of Cobra's Curse, although the park managers gave us a tour. Even the queue area, which featured live snakes, was scary. But there was still plenty of other things to do. The park has 12,000 animals and there was a chance to see more of them with a safari.

Our final stop was water park Aquatica where the highlight was a vertical drop slide.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
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29
Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 28, 2016

A substantial reduction in price of property

Set between the countryside and amenities of Swindon Village, Holloway House, 6 The Holloway, Swindon Village, has now been reduced in price by £20,000 to £266,950.

In a sought after location with both a primary school and coach transport to the senior Edge Cliff School in Kinver, the property has been extended.

For those who 'work at home', there is a generous office or studio which is ideal for the use of a business.

The large patio area and the rear of the garden extends beyond, and enjoys seclusion.

To the front of the property, there is a drive/parking and potential for further space. The garage is accessed at the side.

"Holloway House" lies in a a delightful setting well back and gently elevated from "The Holloway" itself, and enhanced by the established evergreen shrubs and trees opposite, allowing a pleasant outlook to the further trees beyond.

It is on a corner position and has delightful rear gardens but also includes a separate office/studio having been successfully used for a business for many years.

The village has local pubs, a bakers and a post office. It is also ideally positioned for commuting and there are bus services.

The pleasant lounge has a Georgian-style bow window, a 'buff' brick chimney breast with a gas 'living flame' feature fire 'oak' finish flooring.

The dining room has patio windows and 'oak' finish flooring.

Upstairs bedroom one has a double built-in wardrobe, bedroom two has built-in wardrobes and bedroom three has an en-suite. Bedroom four overlooks the frontage and has is currently used as a study.

Outside is a second garden currently used for vegetables and plants. There is a further area of land beyond the rear garden which is currently uncultivated.

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Extended

Delightful setting

Home office/studio



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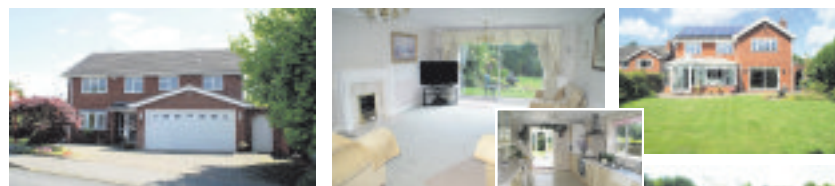
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Halesowen



Lodge Close

An opportunity to acquire a spacious detached family house offering well portioned accommodation comprising master bedroom with en-suite, guest bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms and having conservatory at rear Porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, study, fitted kitchen opening out to conservatory, utility room, house bathroom, enclosed gardens, double garage with electrically operated up and over door, gas boiler heating radiators, double glazing to the majority of windows EPC=C

Offers in the region of £499,950

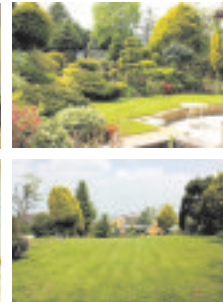
Romsley



Dark Lane

An impressive detached bungalow with outstanding views with 3 bedroom accommodation and situated in a most desirable locality Porch, reception hall, kitchen, utility, sun lounge, lounge, dining room, principal bedroom with ensuite shower room, two further bedrooms and shower room. Double garage. Gas boiler heating radiators. Double glazed windows. Internal inspection recommended. EPC=E

Offers in the region of £450,000



Smethwick



Anderson Road

- * Individual two bedroom cottage
- * Flexible accommodation * Off road Parking
- * Ideal first time purchase
- * Convenient for the Hagley Road EPC=D

Offers in the region of £129,950



Rowley Regis



Yew Tree Lane

- * Well proportioned detached house
- * Kitchen/breakfast room * Three reception rooms
- * Utility and downstairs shower room
- * Three good sized bedrooms * Re-fitted shower room
- * Garage * Beautiful rear garden EPC=D

Offers in the region of £209,950



Oldbury



Apsley Road

- * Spacious extended semi-detached house
- * Extended living room * Dining room
- * Extended kitchen/breakfast room
- * Two bedrooms (potential to create third bedroom)
- * Re-fitted shower room * Garage
- * Good size rear garden EPC=C

Offers in the region of £199,950



Rowley Regis



Regis Road

- * Extended Semi Detached
- * Three Bedrooms * Refitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- * Refitted Shower Room * Garage
- * Good Sized Rear Garden EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £144,950



Halesowen



33B Kent Road

- * Ground floor flat * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Living room * Two bedrooms
- * Shower room * Private garden EPC=C

£110,000



Halesowen



Hiplands Road

- * Semi detached house with potential
- * Prominent corner position
- * Detached garage with driveway
- * Three bedrooms * Through lounge
- * Lovely views EPC=D

Offers in the region of £229,950



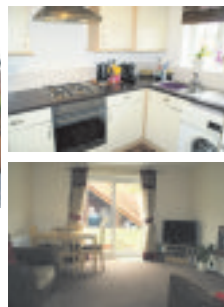
Oldbury



Hamilton Street

- * Semi-detached house
- * Fitted kitchen * Two bedrooms
- * Off road parking for two vehicles
- * Potential to purchase a 50% share EPC=C

£130,000



Rowley Regis



Halesowen Street

- * Ideal for first time buyers or those down sizing
- * Semi detached house * Two bedrooms
- * Re-fitted shower room and breakfast kitchen
- * Conservatory EPC=D

Offers in the region of £134,950



Halesowen



The Grange

Halesowen Road

- * Ground Floor Flat Situated in Popular Block
- * Convenient Location * Living Room
- * Two Bedrooms * Communal Garden
- * Garage in Separate Block EPC=C

Offers in the region of £130,000



Stourbridge



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- * Brand New Detached House
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- * Lounge Opening to Good-Sized Gardebs EPC=B

£207,500

Dudley



Swan Street

- * Large end terrace house
- * Downstairs wc
- * Re-fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- * Lounge and dining room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Bathroom
- * Additional plot of land EPC=D

Offers in the region of £125,000

Quinton



Newburn Croft

- * Detached house in need of some modernisation
- * Two reception rooms * Breakfast kitchen
- * Lobby
- * Three bedrooms
- * Shower room with separate wc
- * Garage * Extensive rear garden EPC=D

Offers in the region of £230,000

Halesowen



Chantry Drive

- * Detached bungalow
- * Two bedrooms
- * Conservatory
- * Garage
- * NO UPWARD CHAIN

EPC=E

Offers in the region of £205,000

Halesowen



King Charles Road

- * Spacious traditional style semi-detached house * Two reception rooms
- * Three bedrooms
- * Garage * Good-sized garden
- * Sought after location
- * Full of potential
- * No upward chain EPC=E

Offers in the region of £259,950

Halesowen



Carters Lane

- * Well Maintained Semi Detached House
- * Situated on Service Road
- * Three Bedrooms * Two Reception Rooms
- * Good Sized Kitchen
- * Popular Residential Location
- * Attractive Rear Garden
- * No upward chain EPC=D

Offers in the region of £209,950



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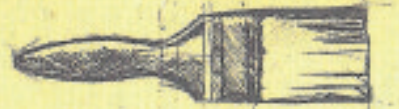
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In person

At your local Express & Star Office.
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm
Monday - Friday for the next day's
advertisement or also before 3.00pm
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funeral directors

N.E.DOWNING
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent
family run
Funeral Directors

24 hour service
Halesowen
0121 422 2794

www.nedowning.co.uk

1

Family

elderly &
disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01354
255019 / 07831 246292.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned
lifts from £799. New available.
01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

bikes

ADULT 18 GEAR MOUNTAIN BIKE. Used once. Bargain £70.
Cost £120 new. Call 07496 298620

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07776373150

CARAVAN WANTED cash on pick
up asap.
Call me on 07717 090817.

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
Caravans 35x12 DG & CH from
£15,000. 11 month holiday season.
01584623433. www.bcpark.co.uk

BAILEY PAGEANT

MAJESTIC

2 berth, 1999.

Good condition for year.

Motor mover, plus new full
Isabella awning.

New leisure battery, new water
pump and pump housing plus
all equipment.

Ready to hook up and go.

£2,250 ovno.

07542 932017.

MUST BE SEEN

VW T4 CAMPER VAN

2.4 LWB.

P reg. 7/4 rock and roll bed.
Smev touring burner and sink.
Blackout blinds.

Leisure battery.
12-240 volt split charging
system.

Professionally converted.
FSH. MOT'd. With awning.
£6,950 ovno.

07828 678711.

MUST BE SEEN

BAILEY RANGER470/4
2007. End bathroom.
Excellent condition inside and
out. Comes complete with
porch awning. Lightweight van.
Ready to go.
£4,999 ovno.
01902 882510.

CLARACH BAY
Static 6-berth Victory Caravan
2011 model. Panoramic views
of sea and valleys from balcony.
CH. DG. As new.
Fees paid for 2016.
£28,500 ovno.
01952 660125 0751 0285747.

STATIC CARAVAN 35 X 10
6-berth with decking, Mid
Wales. Site fees paid for 2016.
Dog friendly.
£4,250 ovno.
07922 351352. No texts.

TUDOR AMBASSADOR
Static caravan with decking area.
1994 model located at
Hampton Lodge. 35ft x 12ft
2 bed.
Residential site open all year.
£15,000 ovno.
Call David 07514 505818.

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED any
thing considered. New or Old
01902 754011 or 07931 587616

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Extra Sale Date
Sunday 31st July
KINVER COMMUNITY
CENTRE
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

music shop

STEVE REINER Classical Guitar,
with hard case, great quality, excellent
condition. £700 ovno.
07802 620770 or 01902 661435.

sports & leisure

FULL SIZE snooker table with slate
bed, £300. Mahogany bar, ideal for
games room, £120. Both excellent
condition. 0121 9535015.

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IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
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TREADMILL Pro-Fitness. Electric.
Was £200 new. 2 yrs old. Rare use.
£100 ovno. Must dismantle & collect.
Stourbridge. 01384 371505.

what's on

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge
Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday
from 18th May
07957 399964

3

Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

WANTED Any memorabilia associated
with Enoch Powell or Rubery
Owen.
Telephone 01666 837747.

furniture

CIRCULAR 1.1M solid oak dining
table (extendable 1.4m). £80. Four
dining chairs, very good condition,
wood, £100. 01299 823321.

ELECTRIC reclining chair, lime
green dralon, excellent condition.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10

SUTCLIFFE DISPLAY UNIT. Teak,
2 door, with chrome drawer. 74insH x
32insW x 18insD, £250.
01902 664315.

in your garden

STONE PATIO SET, table, bench
and stools, all carved, £400 ovno.
Telephone 01746 764839 or
07885 696989.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully
remind advertisers that it is their
responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies
on the first day of publication.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
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• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Cakes • Paintings
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Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
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A BEST CASH PRICE
FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
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/ any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

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consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of
their items.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE
Estimates on any TV Repair.
Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection.
All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
Digital services, Sky installation. Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

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A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

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SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing,
concrete posts, gravel boards,
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
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We are fully insured
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available to senior citizens.
No job too small.
BIG SPRING DISCOUNT
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Shed refelts
now available!
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FREE UP SPACE
GARAGES AND SHEDS CLEARED
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GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden. 25 years experience. Call
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gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work is
Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
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Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances
Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held
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DECORATOR
ALL domestic work
undertaken
Reliable & Affordable
Special rates for OAPs
No job too SMALL
Call
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M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. For All Your Home and
Garden Improvements. Over 30
Years Experience. Call Mark or
Sara on 07741 770897.

removals

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items,
flat/house removals/clearances,
local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121
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FROM £20 P/H
MEN WITH VANS FOR REMOVALS.
SINGLE ITEMS, HOUSES, FLATS,
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20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office,
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Quality service guaranteed
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Experts in all roofing and building aspects
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GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

IT WORKS FOR ME

Thanks to our
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the Express & Star
we are really busy!
It definitely
works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL

01902 319 191

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4

Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

AMERICAN COCKER Spaniel pup.
11wks, KC reg, health checked,
vaccinated, chipped, wormed,
male black, white chest markings.
£650. 07974 749908.

KC ASSURED BREEDERS

Wanted Miniature Dachshund,
dog or bitch, 1-5 years.
Good home waiting.

07935 244905.

LOST

Grey male cat with some white
markings, wearing blue collar
with diamonds and name
barrel. Escaped from pet carrier
whilst on the way to be neutered
at Hills Vets, Walsall.

Last seen in Pursehouse Street
but has recently been rescued
and is still very scared of
humans.

Any sightings please ring
07847 360784
to get him back in his loving new
home.

WORKING COCKER spaniel
puppies, KC reg, black, 1 boy, 1 girl.
£700 each. 01902 674637.

5

Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to
take appropriate professional
advice before entering any obligations.

6

Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an
offence under the Accommodation
Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency
to charge a fee simply for the registration
of your requirements and/or
supplying particulars of premises to let.

APARTMENT TO LET close to city
centre, 2 bed, 1 en suit, private
parking. 07831 847211.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit
with own bath/kitchen. £87 p/w.
for mature DSS. 07550 062549

NETHERTON AREA 2-bed house,
DHSS welcome, 30 plus, no pets,
deposit required. 07780 704435.

ONE BEDROOMED GROUND FLOOR COTTAGE

APARTMENT
Fully furnished with jacuzzi
bath, nice courtyard garden,
close to the centre of Bewdley,
available from August 1.
01299 404760.

SMART ROOMS in shared house.
Netheron. from £85 pwk Single,
£95 pwk DSS. inc bills. No DSS.
07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

mobile homes

FOR SALE 2 BED PARK HOME

At Homeland Park, Ball Lane,
Coven Heath, Nr. Wolverhampton,
10/7EZ.

Price reduced for a quick sale.
Details 07983 431475.

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EVERY TIME!

WE PAY 100% of purchase price



We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
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- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

WE ALSO BUY LAND

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www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



IT WORKS FOR ME

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your home fast?

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit...

you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED

COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT

FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS

FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE

LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY

for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

0121 405 0797

*Terms and Conditions apply

OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

overseas property



HOUSE AND GITE NORMANDY, FRANCE

House has two bedrooms and a ensuite and a large living room with open plan dining and kitchen area Gite has open plan living room / kitchen and upstairs is a bedroom.

£130,000.

0033 233691776.

For more info e-mail steve-carroll@hotmail.co.uk.

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

property exchanges

COUNCIL EXCHANGE from 2 bed and terrace house, excellent decoration, for 1 bed Bungalow, Bilston area. 01902 250302.

7 Jobs

hair & beauty

EXPERIENCED HAIRDRESSER required, FT/PT, Beardwood, Heads Hair Co 07966 98073.

CHRYSLER GRANDE VOYAGER

03 reg, full electrics, full leather interior, 63,000 miles, 12 months MoT, very good condition. £1,750 ono. 01902 828099.

FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC (09) 2009, 3dr, SH, 26,000 miles, metallic red, colour coded interior, 12 months MoT, 2 keys, any fuel, very clean and genuine car. £5,250. Contact David 07503 000940.

MERCEDES BENZ CONVERTIBLE CLK 200 COMPRESSOR ELEGANCE Auto, 41k, 07 reg, very smart, dark blue with beige leather, one previous lady owner, service history, bargain. £7,750. Shifnal 07900 038887.

NISSAN XTRAIL 2.2 SVE, 53 reg, diesel, top of the range, MoT February 2017, £1,900. Telephone 07415 189836.

PEUGEOT 207cc CONVERTIBLE 2007, one owner from new, 20k, very good condition, just serviced, MoT, £2,599 ono. 07785 384166.

SEAT IBIZA 1.2 Reference Sport, 2007, one owner from new, 20k, very good condition, just serviced, MoT, £2,599 ono. 07785 384166.

SEAT IBIZA 1.4 Diesel, 58k, 2010, Good condition, Road Tax, 8 mths MoT, 1 lady driver from new, 60-70 mpg, Red, £4,250. 01902 895145.

SUZUKI ALTO, 09 Reg., very good condition, 19,700 miles, MoT end of May 2017, service record available, £2,700. 01902 676152.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ELITE 2007, manual, 5dr hatchback petrol, 12 months MoT, 41,600 miles only, genuine reason for sale. £2,250. 07837 130333.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Convertible 1.8 Exclusive, 2005, In grey with black half leather seats, 88k, FSH, 2 keys, £1,795. 07759 237779.

VOLVO C70 LUX 2010, Auto diesel, 26,500 miles, Red, side top convertible, cream leather interior, FSH, £11,500. 01384 211945.

VW FOX 64,000, 56 reg, 12 months MoT, Immaculate condition, one owner, £1,595. 07745 922328.

VW GOLF 1.4, 2001 in silver, 76,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, new cam belt, water pump, breaks, coilovers, Audi TT wheels, excellent condition. £1,550 ono. 01902 306544 / 07814 336980.

FIAT PUNTO Active 1.2, 54 reg, MoT Dec, 60,500k, good runner, ideal first car. New car for sale. £1,050 ono. 07711 112491.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 DIESEL LX 5dr hatchback, 2004, long MoT, good condition, very reliable, any trial. £895 ono. 01902 618380.

HONDA CIVIC 1.4 MAX, 02 reg, MoT April 2017, 107,446 miles, £500 ono. Telephone 01902 458858.

HYUNDAI ACCENT CDX, 2002, 108,000 miles, silver, 6 months MoT, good runner, £395 ono. 07613 165222.

NISSAN ALMERA S3 plate, 1500cc, good condition, MoT, very good runner, no faults £580 ono. 07827 05801 / 01902 659043.

NISSAN MICRA 1.0, S reg, 88,000 miles, 1 owner last 12 years, 10 months MoT. £375 ono. Telephone 01902 738257.

PEUGEOT 206 Silver (51 reg), 58,800 miles. Good condition. Full MoT. £700 ono. 07889 953043.

RENAULT MEGANE COUPE 2002, low mileage, 10 months MoT. £500 ono. 01902 689227.

SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 2003, 117,000 miles, grey, abs, airbag, MoT until Sept 2016, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo. Recent timing belt and water pump. £300 ono. 07967 311845.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA, 2004, 107,700 miles, blue, MoT March 2017, 2600 ono. 07943 816045.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 2001, green, 98k miles, PAS, CD, CL, long MoT, clean car, drives great, £595 o.n.o. 07956 882868.

VAUXHALL VECTRA EXCLUSIV, 2006, 51k, grey, abs, fsh, 6m, 6 months MoT, central locking, one owner. £1,150 ono. 0121 520 4287.

VW FOX 2009, immaculate inside and out, very economical, low mileage, £1,895. 01384 565140 or 07761 091577.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age, any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO VAN, MoT till Nov. Good runner. Economical. £200. o.n.o. 07831 806052.

MITSUBISHI L200 TROJAN double cab, 1for Williams top, 2007, 106,000 miles, £4,950. Telephone 07768 841443.

VAUXHALL COMBO van, 1700 diesel, 06 reg, 12 months MoT, 56,000 miles, £2,200. 07828 111032.

driving tuition

Homer's 10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered AD/POI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10. 07432 458100 / 01562 670050. 01384 224854 / 0121 5640090. 01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

HONDA CX400 TRIKE 1993, in very good condition. £2,250 Genuine callers only. 07925 251177.

ROYAL ENFIELD TWIN 1959 700cc, Super Meteor. Rebuilt to high standard. Reliable. Shrewsbury area. £4,250 ono 01938 850514.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCP TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS Tel: 01902 408176 1000's of parts available at all times MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELY Registered Spares Always Available 0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call. 01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

10 Personals

personal

BRITISH BORN INDIAN MALE

Would like to meet lady aged 30-50 years for nights in and out, travelling, pubs/wine bars, sleep overs, general company.

Box Number P20456, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MUST BE SOMEONE FOR ME? Gornal guy, 59 years old, own home and car, young at heart, GSOH, enjoys cosy nights, country walks, old pubs, meals in / out, holidays, visiting interesting places, most music. Looking for that someone special.

Would like a Friendship / relationship / romance with a younger female, attractive, slimish, honest, kind, loving and see where it leads.

Box Number P20458, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

RETIRED GENT With 4 x 4 seeks mature lady to help with navigation around Scotland.

Box Number P20448, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1

WOMAN OF 43

Wishes to seek male, aged between 35 and 50 for companionship, friendship and possible relationship.

All single, separated or divorcee's welcome. Please send a photograph and it will be returned.

I have long blonde hair, blue eyes and am 5ft 6" in height.

Box Number P20449, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

ALL STAR WANDERERS UNDER 13'S

Currently seeking players to strengthen squad. We are looking for players in all positions.

Jason Bolton 07960 297490 Simon Stanton 07881 100791

DUDLEY SPORTS F.C. CHARTER STANDARD CLUB

Under 15 Girls looking for players to strengthen squad. Play in the Central Warwick League on a Saturday morning.

If you are interested Contact Steve on 07984 951319.

general

CREMATION PLOT BUSH-BURY Level ground, adjacent Underhill Lane and Car Park, between gates. £500. 01785 282747.

CRESSWELL WANDERERS FC Community Charter Standard

Require players for 2016/17 season. U9's Jake 07904 387322.

U9's Allstars Pardeep 07967 383814. U10's Mick 07718 082070. U12's Gary 07704 239302. U13's Dave 07591 605932.

U14's Centre Half Neil 07776 435946. Academy 4-5 years, Ron 07717 677627.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL AND

PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

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3 Self Serve - Create your own advert in print and online - visit: bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by Express & Star

Mazda adds autumn colour with special edition Mazda2 Red

By James Parker

It's time to see red this September, as Mazda's stylish and sophisticated supermini range is enhanced with the launch of the Mazda2 Red Edition.

With high levels of standard specification, eye-catching styling enhancements and a striking cabin, the Red Edition's stand-out appearance complements the Mazda2's KODO: Soul of Motion design and sporty proportions.

Offered with a choice of free-of-charge Snowflake White Pearl or Black Mica paint, the Red Edition's youthful design cues include Soul Red accents on the wing mirror covers, rear spoiler and rear underskirt, while the bespoke look can be further heightened with optional £300 Dark Gunmetal 15" alloy wheels.

Inside, the red theme continues with red cloth seat trim, red knee pad inserts and red door trim inserts, while a red and white décor panel on the dash adds a large sweep of colour across the dash.

In dealerships from September 1 and limited to just 400 cars, the Red

The Red edition's stand-out looks complements the Mazda2's KODO: Soul of Motion design and sporty proportions

..... Edition's small volumes make it an exclusive supermini choice that stands out from the crowd.

However, based on the 90ps SE-L Nav, the Red Edition shares the same core values of driving fun, sharp looks, quality, safety and affordability found across the entire Mazda2 range.

Featuring the signature wing front grille and predatory headlamp styling which instantly identify it as a Mazda, the Mazda2 supermini features advanced chassis architecture, while its dynamic, muscular, cab-rearward proportions incorporate a long wheelbase with small overhangs to maximise interior space.

On-board, front shoulder and rear knee room is complemented by ex-

cellent seat comfort, while coherent instrumentation and switchgear is matched to class-leading ergonomics.

The 7-inch touch-screen display combines with Mazda's rotary Multimedia Commander to create an enhanced human-machine interface (HMI) offering extremely safe, intuitive interactivity and infotainment control.

Powered by the efficient 90ps SKYACTIV-G petrol engine, the Red Edition offers customers the ideal balance of lively, agile performance and highly-competitive fuel economy, plus with CO2 emissions of just 105g/km low-running costs are a given.

Stylish

"Thanks to its combination of fun-to-drive handling, stylish looks and generous equipment, the Mazda2 is already winning over UK supermini buyers and our latest special edition model offers stand-out looks and a bold cabin for those customers who want to make a statement with their car," said Peter Allibon, sales director of Mazda Motors UK.

"With free-of-charge metallic paint and its striking styling enhancements, the Mazda2 Red Edition is a colourful addition to the Mazda2 range, that I'm sure will be popular with younger buyers."



Express Repairs for Minor Accident Damage



✓ **Bumper scuffs**

✓ **Kerbed alloys**



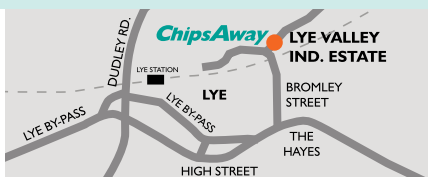
✓ **Paintwork scratches**

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Taking to the top and further!

By Matt Joy

As if the regular F-Type R wasn't quick enough for you, the Jaguar Specialist Vehicle Operations department has got their hands on it to create the fastest production Jag this century.

The F-Type should definitely be on your radar by now. First launched in 2014 and revised just last year, it is the Porsche-worshipping coupe and roadster that gave Jaguar a true successor to the E-Type, as well as a halo effect on the rest of the range. Now the SVO department has turned their attentions to it to create the F-Type SVR.

The changes are detailed and wide-ranging, with more power and torque from the 5.0-litre V8 engine, reduced drag and increased downforce thanks to the new rear wing, diffuser and front valance. There's also retuned suspension, less weight and unlikely as it may seem, an even louder exhaust system made from titanium and air-craft-spec alloy.

You can have an F-Type SVR in Roadster or Coupe form, just like the R version it's based on, and arguably it is the latter that's the best-looking of the two. The exterior changes certainly add aggression to what was an elegant and pretty shape, and you're left in no doubt that the SVR means business. Pick of the colour chart is the sharp blue shade that shows off the strong lines to best effect.

The F-Type and Jaguars in general have come a long way in the image stakes in just a few years thanks to an expanded range and exciting designs, and SVR as a sub-brand now has a second model to boost

its recognition. The F-Type SVR is the fastest series production Jaguar ever and can crack 200mph; that's a potent image to project.

There's no loss of cabin space in the SVR transformation but it remains a strict two-seater with an intimate, rather than spacious, cabin. Even so, six-footers can be comfortably accommodated in the supportive sports seats, the glovebox and storage bins will swallow plenty of oddments and the boot on the Coupe is big enough for a medium suitcase, as well as some smaller bags too. The Roadster's boot is inevitably smaller but space is freed up by opting for the tyre repair kit over a spare, and putting the roof down doesn't impact on boot space.

The tweaks beneath the skin are significant to the point where Jaguar developed a new rear suspension knuckle to improve the suspension response, and developed bespoke tyres with Pirelli just for this car. In normal driving, the first thing you notice is that it rides surprisingly well; even this most extreme car in the whole range retains this familiar Jaguar quality, and it's clearly designed to be used every day.

It's even relatively quiet in the standard driving mode too.

But the SVR is best enjoyed when driven with a little more aggression. Switch into Dynamic mode and the most notable difference is the firmed up suspension, although the driver can tweak the individual settings for the steering, engine and gearbox. It feels extra sharp, responding with even more immediacy to inputs and stays flat, true and firm.

The engine dominates the experience, crackling and rasping with even more volume than the already-loud R Coupe, and pushing the SVR hard above 100mph. With the freedom of the track to explore its full potential the SVR remains pleasingly rear-drive



.....
The F-Type SVR is the fastest series production Jaguar ever and can crack 200mph; that's a potent image to impact
.....

in its balance; you can feel the front wheels helping out but this is a car that can be sideways into, through and on the exit of a bend if you so wish. To call it fun would be a gross understatement.

In Coupe form the SVR checks in at exactly £110,000, with another £5k required for the Roadster. That makes it almost £20,000 more than the R model, but for that you get the extra power and torque, the exterior changes including the aero upgrades and unique alloy wheels, the bespoke suspension upgrades, the 25kg weight loss including the lightweight exhaust and some interior fillips. That seems like good value to us.

Jaguar is billing the F-Type SVR as an all-weather supercar rather than a track warrior, but the fact it dealt so well with all these scenarios means there's a lot to be said for its capability to deal with daily use. 911 Turbo owners might see it as something of an upstart, but it has presence, is sufficiently comfortable and acceptably practical whilst crucially being a complete blast to drive when the circumstances permit. It's also relatively inexpensive for a car that can top 200mph...

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Upgraded Cherokee a pleasure to take out

By John Griffiths

In a world where the sports utility vehicle seems to be taking over the roads, there's one which will always stand out from the crowd.

You don't have to be a petrolhead to recognise a Jeep from its unique slotted grille, or know what it stands for. That's a fitting tribute, since Jeep invented the modern SUV concept back in the 1940s and has been developing it ever since.

That's illustrated by the latest Cherokee model which has been further developed since its launch in 2014: perhaps most notably by the introduction of a new, more powerful 2.2 litre diesel engine mated to a highly flexible nine-speed automatic gearbox.

When we talk performance we not confining ourselves to the limited parameter of 0 to 62mph sprint time (although 8.5 seconds for the 197bhp test car is certainly no slouch). More power, torque and ratios mean progress is smoother, quieter, more relaxed and comfort is what this Jeep is about.

The £37,245 test car, in Limited specification, is packed with driver aids and safety technology as well as boasting a leather-clad interior. As well as dual zone climate control it has heated and ventilated seats – the latter very welcome with leather seats on a hot day; it all adds to that luxurious ambience.

Supple

The nine-speed auto means an ultra low first gear (ideal if you venture off road) and a higher top, with motorway speeds achieved at barely 1,600rpm which is good news for refinement and economy. Its official (laboratory tested) average fuel consumption is 49.6mpg with a corresponding 150g/km of CO2 emissions: in my real world test I averaged 41mpg, which is competitive for a car of this size with all wheel drive.

In fact progress in the Cherokee is commendably quiet, a feature complemented by its relatively soft and supple ride.

The Jeep seems to be designed for comfort, rather than the sort of sporty dynamics chosen by some of its continental rivals.

That said, it was a pleasure to drive across Welsh mountain roads in spite of its size and weight – and even more so to arrive after three hours behind the wheel without signs of stiffening in old bones.

Cherokee prices start from £26,355 for the entry-level, 2.0 litre manual, up to £40,150 for the specially equipped new flagship, the 75 th Anniversary edition. Most Cherokees use the 2.2 diesel, but there is a 3.2 litre V6 manual option.

The Cherokee is really one of a kind so it's hard to pin down a true rival although perhaps the nearest would be the new VW Tiguan or Land Rover's Discovery Sport but you need to look closely at equipment levels and prices.

Power

It's a step up from the compact SUV sector, Jeep has that covered with its successful Renegade and for those who want a bigger vehicle and more power there's the Grand Cherokee.

The Cherokee's four wheel drive system can be set up for normal, mud or snow modes by a rotary dial on the centre console.

For the most part, leaving it in auto mode is the best plan, although sport does sharpen up throttle and gear responses.

There are no flappy paddles for manual gearchanges, but I found the sequential back-forward movement of the shift lever equally convenient when, for example, choosing a lower gear for more engine braking on steep descents.

The transmission is very responsive so a good, old-fashioned kick down iproduces plenty of mid-range surge for a quick overtake.

Apart from the four wheel drive, there is a range of electronics aiding safety and stability, including a roll mitigation system included in the electronic stability programme.

Automatic headlights and wipers, cruise control, a rear parking camera, dual zone climate control and a comprehensive trip computer displayed in the instrument panel are all part of the package.

The colour screen in the centre console gives driver or front passenger control of the satnav, nine-speaker stereo/ radio, Bluetooth and connectivity systems.

Optional extras fitted to the test car included a panoramic sunroof and electronic aids including adaptive cruise control and lane departure warnings.

The interior, clad in black Moroccan leather, has room for five in comfort and a big big – almost 600 litres which more than doubles if you fold the rear seats down.

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As a coach at West Bromwich Albion with Gary Strodder in 1990



Allardyce as a Bolton Wanderers player in 1980



Allardyce, back centre, in the school team for Sycamore Green, Dudley



Sam Allardyce arrives for a friendly while manager of Sunderland

Black Country's Sam is now the England man

HE'S the Black Country boy who grew up supporting Wolves and went on to enjoy a coaching role at Albion.

Now Dudley-born Sam Allardyce has landed his dream job as England manager.

It's a job he has craved ever since being overlooked in 2006 when the FA instead opted for Steve McClaren.

The 61-year-old was appointed by a three-man FA panel of chief executive Martin Glenn, vice-chairman David Gill and technical director Dan Ashworth last week. He replaces Roy Hodgson, himself a former Albion boss, who resigned after England's 2-1 Euro 2016 defeat to Iceland.

Former FA chairman Greg Dyke said: "Clearly the three-man group are convinced he's the right man and I go along with that."

"We appointed a three-man committee to go out and look at all the candidates, come back with a recommendation who they thought was the best man. They've taken that decision and obviously we'll agree with them."

Educated

Allardyce is known to be hugely proud of his West Midlands roots – and often comes back to visit family. But the no-nonsense defender felt he had to move away in order to pursue a career in professional football.

Big Sam grew up on Wren's Nest estate and was educated at Sycamore Green Primary School and later at Wren's Nest School.

But he left the area aged just 15 when he was approached by Bolton.

He played a handful of games for Dudley Town's youth team during the 1969/70 season. His brother, Bobby, remains the club's oldest-ever player.

Dudley Town chairman Stephen Austin said: "It's

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Masi

"It's fantastic to see someone from our own town, who played for our club, going all the way to being England manager."

fantastic to see someone from our own town, who played for our club, going all the way to being England manager."

Allardyce's playing career took him to Bolton, Huddersfield, Sunderland, Coventry, Millwall and Preston. But no matter what part of the country he was in, he always expressed his pride at being from Dudley.

And, despite his boyhood leaning towards Wolves, it was Albion who gave Allardyce his first taste of coaching when he was appointed to Brian Talbot's coaching staff at The Hawthorns in 1989.

Although his stay back in the West Midlands ended when he and Talbot were sacked, he still believes his first backroom job was a valuable part of his managerial education.

"It was a difficult time for the club, for Brian Talbot and certainly for me," said Allardyce. "I was reserves manager but then in the second year Brian wanted me to work with him and the first team."

"But it was always going to be difficult because he was under pressure from the start and it only lasted until January."

"I enjoyed working with the players in the reserves

and we won the Birmingham League. It was a good experience."

The next step saw him head to Limerick where he guided the League of Ireland team to promotion, before managing Blackpool, who sacked him when he failed to guide them to Division One.

In January, 1997, he became manager of Division Two basement club Notts County. And although he couldn't save them from relegation, they won promotion at the first attempt by finishing top of Division Three the next year – winning the title by 19 points and becoming the first post-war side to win promotion by mid-March.

In 1999 he returned to Bolton, for whom he had played 198 times, and in 2001 they beat Preston 3-0 in the play-off final to reach the Premiership. He then stabilised them in the top flight to help form his reputation as a survival specialist.

But his time at the Reebok Stadium wasn't just about keeping Bolton in the league. The Trotters, with the likes of Youri Djorkaeff and Jay-Jay Okocha, qualified for the UEFA Cup and reached the Round of 32 in the 2005/06 campaign.

Spells

Allardyce was offered the Manchester City job shortly after, but the offer was withdrawn after Thaksin Shinawatra's purchase of the club was accepted.

Since then he has had spells in charge of Newcastle United, Blackburn Rovers and West Ham. And last season he defied the odds to keep Sunderland in the Premier League.

Former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, who led England to three successive major tournament quarter-finals, has backed Allardyce to succeed. He said: "If you take a team from the lower part of the table you have to adapt to what you want to do."

"Many times Sam has had a team struggling for survival and he has done the job."



Allardyce, far left, a coach at Albion under Brian Talbot, with the 1990/91 squad line-up



No-nonsense defending as Allardyce gets stuck in for Coventry in 1984



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Convincing Cradley in crushing win

CRADLEY climbed back up to second in the National League table with a crushing 58-32 win over Buxton at Monmore Green.

It was a convincing display from Will Pottinger's side to comfortably dispose of the visitors in emphatic style – just a few weeks after they needed a last-heat decision to overcome the same opponents in the Knockout Cup.

Terrific top two Ashley Morris and Max Clegg both went unbeaten by an opposing rider for the second straight home meeting as the Heathens delivered 13 race winners.

Morris set the tone with a comprehensive win in heat one, and his only real challenge came as he battled past former Cradley man Ellis Perks in the early stages of heat 10.

Clegg was also in imperious form, clocking the fastest time of the night in heat seven as he prevailed over the battling Perks.

Luke Chessell grew in confidence as the night progressed after emerging from his opening ride with a paid win behind team-mate Ben Basford having survived a big moment on the third lap.

He narrowly missed out on a paid maximum as Perks gated in heat 12 and held on to deliver the visitors their first race win. Basford, making his return from injury, also made a big impact at reserve, winning his opening two rides to ensure the Heathens were always in the driving seat.

Richard Andrews produced arguably the ride of the night as he blasted around Shelby Rutherford to hit the front on the opening lap of heat eight.

Cradley: Ashley Morris 15, Max Clegg 13+2, Luke Chessell 10+1, Richard Andrews 8+1, Ben Basford 8+1, Bradley Andrews 2+1, Layne Cullitt 2, James Purchase R/R.

Buxton: Ellis Perks 8, Shelby Rutherford 7+2, Lee Dicken 6, Ryan Blacklock 5+1, Lee Geary 4, William O'Keefe 2+1, Kean Dicken 0, David Speight R/R.

Anyone's game as competition enters final two rounds

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club fielded a commendable 14 players for the annual post-season friendly Tony Evers match against Halesowen.

The addition of Paul Taylor, a loanee from Halesowen, enabled a 15-board match to be played.

On paper it looked like Stourbridge should win as they outgraded their opponents on the lower boards but in the end they won handsomely with Halesowen only winning two games as opposed to Stourbridge's 10. The final result was Halesowen 3½ - Stourbridge 11½.

After three rounds of Stourbridge's summer tournament, it's very tight at the top with all players having lost some points. What the final outcome will be is very unclear as seven players share the lead on two points out of a possible three with two more rounds to go.

Martin Berridge, Colin Woodall, Chris Cox, John Foxall and Eric Horwill all won their third round games.

Anyone interested in joining, or playing in the summer tournament should call Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk

Champion's help a real catch for girls



Rachael Hayhoe-Flint passes on some tips

FORMER England cricket captain Baroness Rachael Heyhoe-Flint has passed on her top tips to a champion girl's side from Dudley.

Baroness Heyhoe-Flint, who was born and raised in Wolverhampton, captained the national team from 1966-78, becoming one of the most high-profile personalities in women's cricket.

The Year 6 team from Milking Bank Primary School will be hoping to emulate her success, having already proved they have a bright future with strong performances in a series of tournaments.

Baroness Heyhoe-Flint agreed to meet with the girls and their coach, Matthew Farmer, to pass on a few words of wisdom.

Cricket

She said: "Meeting the girls was inspiring. They are all aged 11 or younger and turned up proudly wearing their medals around their necks."

"The group is now off to three different senior schools and I hope those schools will help in furthering their careers."

The Year 6 team played in five tournaments this year, winning four, including at the Black Country School Games. Baroness Heyhoe-Flint's crowning glory was leading England to victory in the 1973 World Cup.

INQUEST INTO HEAVY DEFEAT

HALESOWEN Cricket Club Chairman Richard Evans promised a review into their crushing defeat against Harborne last weekend.

They were skittled out for just 66, with only captain Wes Griffiths and Hassan Quami reaching double figures at Seth Somers Park.

The visitors then strolled to victory by nine-wickets on what was very much an afternoon to forget for Halesowen.

It leaves Halesowen mid-table in the Birmingham and District League Division Two – and Evans has called on the side to issue a response when they travel to Stourbridge on Saturday.

"There were a number of things about this weekend's performance that need reviewing," Evans said. "However, we have been here before around this time last season, and we tidied up some areas of our cricket and came strong again in the run-in."

"Now is the time for clear thinking and calm heads as it is these kinds of periods where you learn lots about each other and their desire to take up the challenges we face over the second half of the season."

The Second XI also saw their recent good form come to an abrupt end with a 56-run defeat against Harborne.

Spinners Carl Bust (4-62) and Mohammad Shauib (3-48) restricted Harborne to 195-9 from 50 overs. However, a top order collapse saw Halesowen fall to 28-4 in reply, and although Deon Patel (61) and Richard Cox (28) put up some resistance they were eventually bowled out for 139.

It was a disappointing afternoon which leaves them in the relegation zone heading into a crucial spell of matches – starting as they host Himley this Saturday (12.30).

On a difficult week for the club, the Third XI proved the shining light with a tremendous win over Alveley CC, chasing down 244 with five balls to spare. Meanwhile, the Fourth XI slipped to second in the table with a nine-wicket defeat against Barnards Green.

The Third XI travel to Stourport on Saturday whilst the Fourths XI are at home to Stourport.

Colts duo join Blues academy



Halesowen Colts goalkeeper Francis Jones and Seb Owen, who have joined Blues Academy

TWO of Halesowen's brightest footballing prospects have landed a dream deal after being scouted by Birmingham City's academy – and former coach Stuart How is delighted to have played a part in their progression.

Goalkeeper Francis Jones, eight, and midfielder Seb Owen, also eight, are two of the latest recruits to join the St Andrew's outfit after impressing for their Sunday League side Halesowen Town Colts.

The talented duo have featured for the Colts for two full seasons after originally joining at under-7s, and played under boss and club president How last season, How's side won 24 from

26 games, scoring 175 goals and conceding just 31, with Jones, who is a pupil at Huntingtree Primary, keeping 13 clean sheets and Owen, who attends Hurst Green Primary School, scoring 46 goals.

"I've never seen a goalkeeper in the same league as Francis," said How. "He's not the biggest and almost wasn't signed because of that, but after two sessions they realised he was too good to turn down."

"Seb has been one of the stronger players at the academy. He scored so many goals from midfield. They have both been amazing in grassroots football."

Teams show thunder for 24-hour relay

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club took part in a relay with a difference – the 24 hour Thunder Run, at Catton Park on the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border. The race started at noon on Saturday with the aim to complete as many laps of the undulating 10 kilometre off road course in 24-hours.

The race attracted competitors in solo, pairs and teams of five but it was the mixed eight runner teams category that interested the blue hoops with the club managing to field four teams, a total of 31 athletes pulling on the vest.

The A team hammered out lap after lap at an average of a fraction over 45 minutes for each circuit, completing a total of 32 laps, a distance of nearly 200 miles, to take ninth place. The B team covered almost 175 miles and 28 laps to come 28th, while the Cs completed 24 laps, almost 150 miles to finish in 107th place with only seven runners and the D team covered just over 130 miles between them to finish 192nd of the 239 teams competing in the event.

The blue hoops rubbed shoulders with the green and white hoops of Tipton Harriers as a sizeable group made the short trip across the Black Country for the Andy Holden 5, a race held to commemorate the former Tipton Harrier who represented his country in the 1970 Commonwealth Games and the 1972 Munich Olympics.

This was a midweek mad blast along the local canal towpaths that Holden regularly trod. Stuart Perkins was first back for DK in 12th place in 30.02.

A couple of DK runners travelled to Arley Hall in Cheshire for the Cheshire Half Marathon, and both recording the same gun times – Dave Ede just edging Paul Baker on chip timing. At the Trencham 10k, Alison and Keith Whitehouse finished in the same time of 59.42.

Shrews are tamed in Glassboys clash

STOURBRIDGE bagged an impressive pre-season success against League One Shrewsbury Town at the War Memorial Stadium.

A goal in each half, courtesy of Joe Hull and Chris Lait, eased the Glassboys to a 2-0 victory against a Town side containing a number of first teamers.

It took just under 10 minutes for the hosts to chalk up the lead they so deserved. A long throw from Tom Tonks was met by defender Hull, who rose to power his header beyond Callum Burton.

The second arrived when Lait stole in to thump a sweet, low half-volley.

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